

DILATION

The first step of the puzzle contains many confusingly-worded clues. The blue lines indicate letters that are shared between adjacent clues.

If you fill in the clues, the circled letters spell EVERY FIFTH LETTER. If you take every fifth letter of the clues, you get much shorter clues whose answers fit the second set of blanks.

These answers use an ordered subsequence of the answers to the original clues, plus one more letter. The added letters spell HUMBLE PIE.

Make this long, frightening phrase a little briefer = to inhale	<u>ABBREVIATE</u>	<u>BREATHE</u>
Screwed up and desperate times = waste	<u>DIRE STRAITS</u>	<u>DETRITUS</u>
Cricket (brit., mainly) = kin	<u>FAIR PLAY</u>	<u>FAMILY</u>
A US President or tabby cat (oh, he hates Mondays!) = retched	<u>GARFIELD</u>	<u>BARFED</u>
Document for one's political motivation, code , philosophy = most macho	<u>MANIFESTO</u>	<u>MANLIEST</u>
Enough seats for only five of six: a round in this event = GTO is one	<u>MUSICAL CHAIRS</u>	<u>MUSCLE CAR</u>
Went down or up, bouncing = drug	<u>OSCILLATED</u>	<u>OPIATE</u>
Couple of hours, tops = loo	<u>SHORT-TERM</u>	<u>SHITTER</u>
Chides or excoriates blatantly = exalt	<u>UPBRAIDS</u>	<u>UPRAISE</u>