

BIT BY BIT

1. Statue of Liberty feature
2. Indian seasoning
3. A musician may strike it
4. Hinted
5. Refrains from eating
6. Aped
7. Doesn't buy a vowel
8. "_____ want a cracker?"
9. Tea biscuit

In Hard Mode, these nine clues are each the start of a word ladder that uses from 1 to 4 of the clues below. In Normal Mode, the clues are arranged so that the word ladders are already in order.

The last change in each ladder spells USEBINARY. You should read five binary bits out of each ladder, based on whether each position changed or didn't change.

The ladders you get are:

Both kangaroos and koalas have one
 Card suit
 Dug for coal
 Global opposites
 Glow with light
 Home of the Hobbits
 House extension
 In _____ (fashionable)
 Is concerned
 Lassos
 Long line in Rome
 Mariah or Drew
 One of the Five Ws
 Opinion surveys
 Stick counterpart
 The _____ of Babylon
 Tiresome task
 Took a five-finger discount
 Transport in one's arms
 Used for punching
 Vertebral column
 What detectives solve
 What elementary kids are taught to do
 What you've been answering

POUCH	TORCH	CURRY	CHORD
CLUBS	PORCH	CARRY	CHORE
MINED	POUCH	CAREY	WHORE
POLES		CARES	WHERE
SHINE	10100	CASES	
SHIRE	= T		10101
PORCH		01111	= U
STYLE		= 0	
CARES	CLUED	FASTS	MIMED
ROPES	CLUES	FISTS	MINED
POPE	CLUBS		
CAREY		01000	
WHERE	00011	= H	00100
POLLS	= C		= D
STONE			
WHORE	SPINS	POLLY	SCONE
CHORE	SPINE	POLLS	STONE
STOLE	SHINE	POLES	STOLE
CARRY	SHIRE	POPE	STYLE
FISTS	SHARE	ROPES	
SPINE			01110
CASES	01111	10111	= N
SHARE	= 0	= W	
CLUES			

In the given order, these spell the answer TOUCHDOWN.