

THE MOST ANAGRAMMATIC CAPITAL?

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Caren is acting as a tour guide for Tomas, a visitor to a certain state capital. Its letters can be repeatedly rearranged to fill the blank spaces in the dialogue below with appropriate phrases. Can you complete their conversation? Answers are found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

Caren: I like your light-brown convertible - that's -----!

Tomas: Why do you spell your name with a C instead of a K?

Caren: Oh, it's an -----, you know, like Lizabeth Scott or Barbra Streisand.

Tomas: This traffic sure is wild! There are ----- here.

Caren: It's expensive here, too. A penny just wanders off; you might say that -----.

Tomas: These gnats sure are pesky today! I wish they'd wipe their dirty little feet after they land in my eyes. Someone ought to invent -----.

Caren: Before you get any ideas, I want to warn you that I'm a confirmed bachelor girl. You might say I -----.

Tomas: But you aren't a complete misogynist, for you're willing to ----- (me!) around the city today.

Caren: I should warn you that this city's not very photogenic. Visitors need guidebooks but -----.

Tomas: Did you put the guidebook in the ----- with the map, or is it in a different box?

Caren: Here it is! It says that the Museum of Transportation features a horse-drawn carriage, but (alas!) -----, Stanley or otherwise.

Tomas: Yes, I've heard of this place. But what I'd really like to see is the exhibit of futuristic modes of lake and river travel - for example, the computer-guided Indian craft nicknamed the -----.

Caren: What else would you like to see?

Tomas: Do you have an amusement park? I like to ride the chute-the-chute: I guess you could call me a roller -----.

Caren: Don't you find this sort of thing alarming?

Tomas: Bring it on - the more frightening, the better, because I'm the -----.

Caren: You should visit Disneyland for that sort of thing.

Tomas: No, thanks! They run a crackerjack swindle - you might say, ----- to separate the unwary tourist from his money.

Caren: The park across the street contains a statue to the wool industry; wouldn't you agree that the flock of sheep is remarkably lifelike? However, they had money for -----; the ewes are all formed in terra cotta instead of bronze.

Tomas: It must have been quite a job to lift that statue onto its pedestal!

Caren: Yes, they originally thought that they would have to construct a temporary ramp, but when they weighed the statue they discovered that at ----- was needed to hoist it into position. In fact, the contractor made the whole thing look easy. Even when the statue was dangling at the end of a steel cable, there was no emotion expressed by the sidewalk superintendants: ----- was heard, or even a gasp of dismay.

Tomas: Look! There's a hole at the base of the statue. ----- or other small varmint find shelter there?

Caren: So what do you think of the statue?

Tomas: The Venus de Milo it isn't. In fact, I think that the city got rooked -- this artist was out to make a fast buck. Although this may not be a forgery, this is ----- that deserves further investigation by the district attorney!