

Do the Batusi

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Answer: **PARTY HARD**

Mostly, this is a fairly traditional “mangled clues” style puzzle; the only big change is that all R’s have been replaced with L’s across every clue. Find the transformation rules, decode the strings, solve for the clue words, then re-apply the undone transformation to each word. The result of each reapplication is the name of a fad dance with a single letter missing.

PERFORM SOMETHING FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME	DEBUT	#2 delete, double last	DBUTT	A
RETRIBUTIVE COSMIC FORCE FROM BUDDHISM	KARMA	#1 down nine, add T at #4	BARTMA	N
MARY NOTABLY HAD A LITTLE ONE	LAMB	1 before #N at end twice	LAMBAA	D
LOWEST MATERIAL ON MOHS HARDNESS SCALE	TALC	swap #1 and #N, append ON	CALTON	R
LARGE COLORFUL KIND OF PARROT	MACAW	#N to RNA	MACARNA	E
CALCITE USED FOR WRITING AND DRAWING	CHALK	first two to N, prepend animal noise	MOONALK	W
LONG DIFFICULT JOURNEY OFTEN COMPLETED ON FOOT	TREK	swap #2 and #N-1	TERK	W
MOROSE FORLORN GLUM OR MELANCHOLY	SAD	#2 up one, every other is l	SIBIDI	K
SHELLED ANIMAL CARRYING ELEPHANTS CARRYING DISCWORLD	TURTLE	#3 up one, delete #1	USTLE	H
ODDLY GRUESOME VOCABULARY GAME	HANGMAN	#1-2 to RU, triple #3	RUNNNGMAN	I
OBLIGATION WHICH MUST BE UPHELD	DUTY	add booze to the end	DUTYWINE	T
VENETIAN DUKE OR SHIBA INU MEME	DOGE	insert U at #3	DOUGE	I
GENERIC TERM FOR OPAQUE BROWN SODAS LIKE PEPSI	COLA	#Nans-1 to G	COGA	N
VEGETABLE FEEDING SYSTEM LIKE TURNIP BEET AND YAM	ROOT	#3 up/down thirteen	ROBT	O
DIGITAL PERSON CONTROLLED BY GREEN DIAMOND	SIM	#N double, append Y	SIMMY	H
KOREAN GANGNAM STYLE RAPPER RELEVANT TO THEME	PSY	#2 down five	PNY	O
LEGEND BUTTON OR UNLOCKING PIECE	KEY	prepend (#1 up 2) & O	MOKEY	N
CHAIN STORE FOR SPORTS HATS	LIDS	#N to #1, PKMN type front	ELECTRICSLID	E

The phrase “ANDREW WK HIT IN OH ONE” points to the final answer, **PARTY HARD**.

Author’s Notes

Adam: I had to be talked down from making this harder; I guess on some level I wasn’t giving the puzzle’s twist enough credit for difficulty. It was really just to give it a *little* extra zest.