The Hard Way

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Prepare frozen wings, removing last of gristle and bones [+−+]

Person that's a little slow — it sounds like he is telegraphed? [+++]

Smoother line [++−]

Large bit of fat in front near stomach muscle! [+−+]

Show-off streaks in the auditorium [+−+]

Wad of something unknown! [+−−]

What it is when chopped! [−+−]

Tip: It's the healthy choice for ground beef [−−+]

Alternating pleonasm: "a plaster admixture primarily made of moistened clay or, if you will, a coarse sand used in molding, or, at other times, a soil consisting of equal parts clay, silt and sand … to be very clear about it" [+−+]

Steep tea once you take out glasses? [+−−]

Lothario a little gobsmacked [−++]

Tertiary character excluded from opening night flier [++−]

Alecia Moore's ATM code: 1-0-0-0 [−+−]

Unmotorized four-wheeler coming from off-ramp? [+−+]

Light right in sight [−++]

Hinder certain New Yorkers trying to make it home from the East Side [+−+]

It joins with greeting! [−+−]

In cents, close-to-ersatz element that's superior! [−+−]

We have four cubes, with each face containing a unique letter (no J and no Q). We rolled them 18 times and came up with dictionary words each time — lucky us. They are clued above, *alphabetical by answer.*

Each column represents one cube, so there can only be six distinct letters per column. Consequently, answers for *all but the starred rows* will need to be rearranged before being entered.

Each clue shows the alphabetic relationship between adjacent letters in the answer, e.g. [−+−] for GAME because A is *before* G, M is *after* A, and E is *before* M. (Our thanks to Joel Nanni, whose puzzles inspired this.)

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