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### Across

2. a vital, basic, decisive, or pivotal point (**crux**)
3. shameless or impudent (**brazen**)
6. a state of temporary disuse or suspension (**abeyance**)
8. not ashamed, disconcerted, or apologetic; composed (**unabashed**)
9. of vital or critical importance (**pivotal**)
13. merely touching; slightly connected; divergent or digressive (**tangential**)
14. an act or instance of escaping, avoiding, or shirking something, as by a subterfuge (**evasion**)
15. indirectly stated or expressed; not straightforward (**oblique**)

### Down

1. to replace in power, authority, effectiveness, acceptance, use, etc.; supplant (**supersede**)
4. pleasantly agreeable; free from tension, discord, etc. (**mellow**)
5. next to the last (**penultimate**)
7. easily managed or handled; tractable (**docile**)
10. resolutely fearless; dauntless (**intrepid**)
11. to bring to an end (**terminate**)
12. making or having a harsh sound; grating; shrill (**strident**)