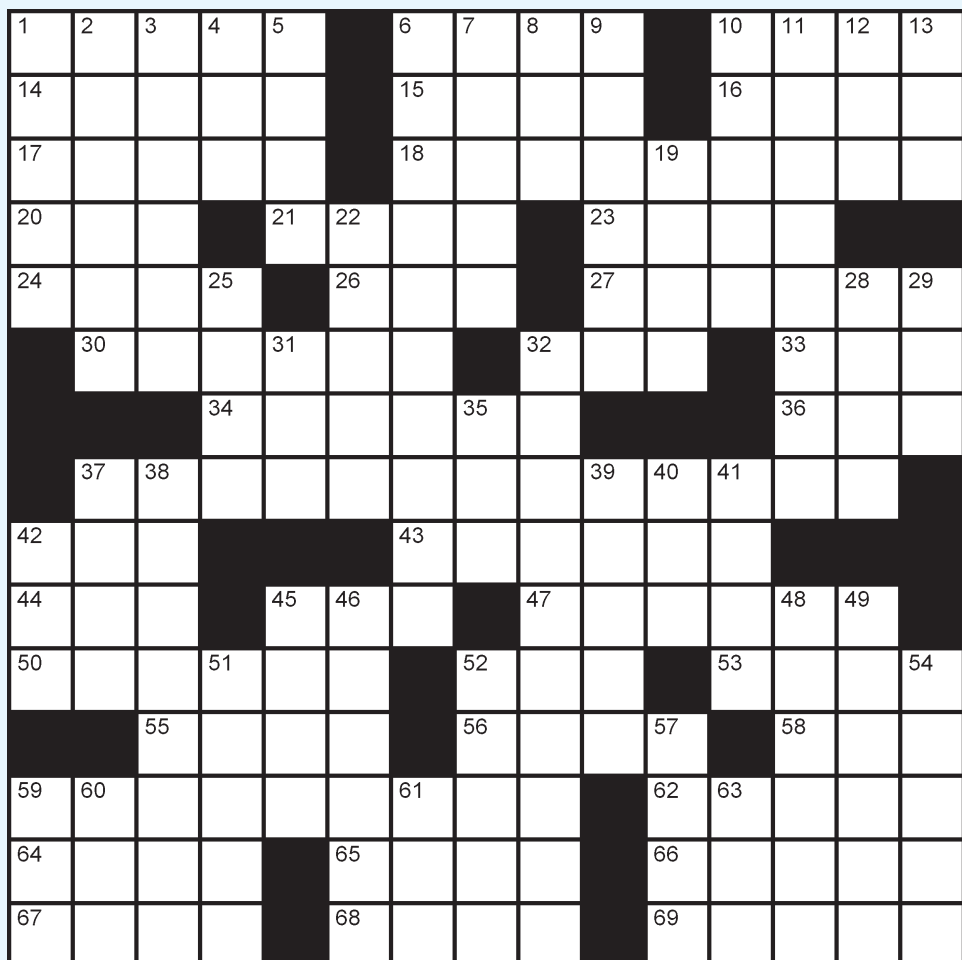


Breaking Cover by Matthew Stock & Ella Dershowitz

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Gets in tents
 - 6 Spheres
 - 10 In the distance
 - 14 One of up to four in a tweet
 - 15 ___ in the neck
 - 16 Stellar phenomenon
 - 17 *Garment that covers waves
 - 18 *Intertwined
 - 20 Name found in "angel investor"
 - 21 'Do for Questlove
 - 23 Word after "parallel" or "public"
 - 24 **Collect, as rewards
 - 26 **PC connection
 - 27 **Nickname for singer Swift
 - 30 What passionate people get "bitten by"
 - 32 Put on
 - 33 Big Wave Golden ___ (Kona brew)
 - 34 Indicate
 - 36 Race circuit
 - 37 2015 Cold War film, or a hint to the words hidden across the rows of starred answers
 - 42 "Insecure" co-creator Issa
 - 43 Driver's license with an added stamp
 - 44 Like the number 2021
 - 45 Texting format: Abbr.
 - 47 Train type that has hit 374 mph
 - 50 ***Alps' place
 - 52 ***Sewer dweller
 - 53 ***"As I was going to St. ___"
 - 55 Norse god whom Gandalf has parallels to
 - 56 Colorado natives
 - 58 Body spray brand
 - 59 ****Autonomous wrestling
 - 62 ****Escorted down the aisle, say
 - 64 Kuwaiti ruler
 - 65 Love, in Spanish
 - 66 Pizzeria fixtures
 - 67 Shark parts
 - 68 Quaint "not"
- DOWN**
- 1 Apple drink
 - 2 Lucky charm
 - 3 Singer Carey
 - 4 Org. whose athletes try to be subpar
 - 5 Sonic's game company
 - 6 Met people?
 - 7 Continued and continued
 - 8 Tiny piece
 - 9 Suddenly hear your alarm, maybe
 - 10 Furious
 - 11 Story like "The Heart of a Monkey"
 - 12 "___ Maria"
 - 13 "Neato!"
 - 19 Bread eaten with tikka masala
 - 22 Hurled
 - 25 Foot treatment, informally
 - 28 "There was no other choice ..."
 - 29 "Definitely!"
 - 31 A parent may teach a child how to make it
 - 32 Reputation-damaging
 - 35 25-Down digit
 - 37 "Worldwide Underground" singer Erykah
 - 38 Bottomless Steak Fries chain
 - 39 Start with a clean ___
 - 40 "Charlotte's Web" animal
 - 41 Indian rice cake
 - 42 Sushi eggs
 - 45 ___ take (comic's reaction)
 - 46 Verified smarty-pants
 - 48 Dodged
 - 49 Irksome
 - 51 Locker-room smells
 - 52 Word on the street
 - 54 Taste or touch
 - 57 Like a sloth
 - 59 Super Bowl arbiter
 - 60 "Cheerleader" singer
 - 61 Actress Thurman
 - 63 December 31, for one

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021 Earth Sign Grand Trine



Scientists are starting to understand how trees communicate with each other through root and fungal systems, spores and more. Under this grand trine between the moon, sun and Uranus, we, like trees, are grounded creatures, eager to share and grow. Make a plan for the new year; it will be embedded in the practical magic of earth signs.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Whatever you're doing together, a good rule of thumb is to make it easy for the other person. That will, in turn, make it easier for you. For now, don't worry about the score. Let your natural generosity prevail.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Though you've experienced a certain interpersonal interaction too many times to count, you've only just started to catch on to the deeper implications. You'll recognize a dynamic for the first time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Some consider forgiveness a divine act they aspire to do easily and generously. Others are glad to hold a grudge for as long as their hands can clasp it. Events will bring into focus your thoughts on the matter.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Revel in the details but shun pettiness. Both deal in the granular, but the difference is easy to detect. Small matters that spark a sense of mastery, creativity and amazement are worthy of you. Small ugly things are not.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When you take action, you do it with the intention of experiencing some of life's best stuff, including, but not limited to, radiant connections, deep satisfaction or big adventure.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Strangers will get the extra-charming version of you today. You don't want to cheat more familiar people out of your special brand of attention; it's just that it's so easy to dazzle the ones who haven't experienced you before.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The things you enjoy have an impulse, an electric buzz you can feel when you get close. When you interact with these things, the energy goes into you, fueling your next move.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). As the director of your life, you get to decide how many takes to do before you move on to the next scene. You also get to decide which takes go into the final cut you present to the world.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your muse comes knocking, and you open the door. It's a risk letting a muse inside. You get the inspiration, but you also have to entertain her with your creations, which require work – worthwhile work, by the way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Knowing what a person wants gives you options. You can provide it if you have it, create or find it if you don't, or you can opt to withhold the wanted thing to drive up its value.

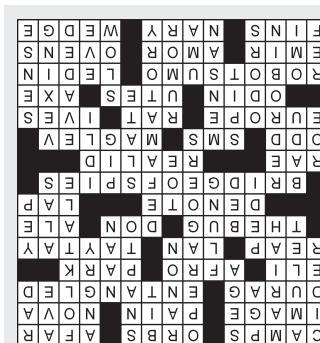
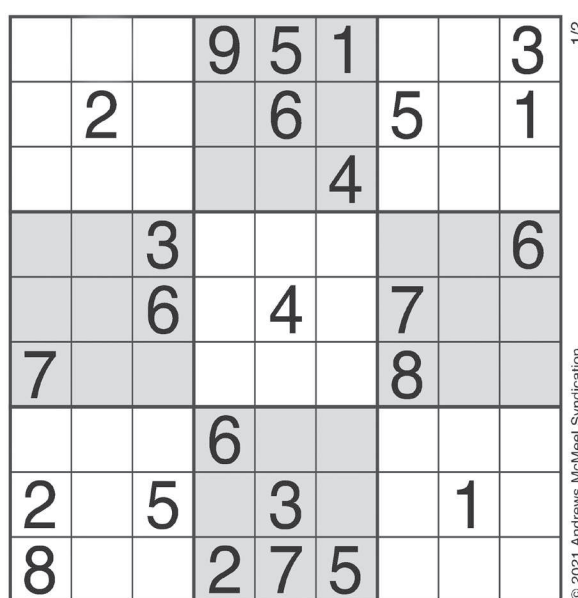
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Though a trip to the zoo can be a wondrous, enlightening experience, it comes with the bittersweet reminder that there are limits to freedom. You won't need a zoo visit to be reminded of this today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Every conflict is different. Some should be avoided, some are obstacles in the way, and some are the way itself. Don't automatically back off. Assess the situation and see if there's anything in it for you.

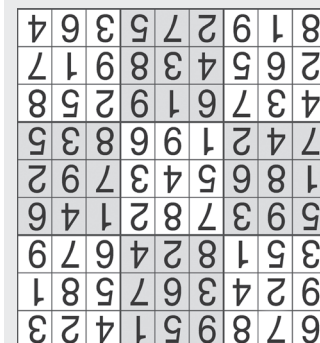
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 3). You'll define and redefine yourself. What you won't do is let anyone else in on the process, as becoming fully self-realized is an inside job. You will allow others to advise, support and promote you though, and you'll have excellent care in this regard. Summer endeavors ignite your sense of adventure and alter your lifestyle. Aries and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 30, 22, 16 & 18.

Universal SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

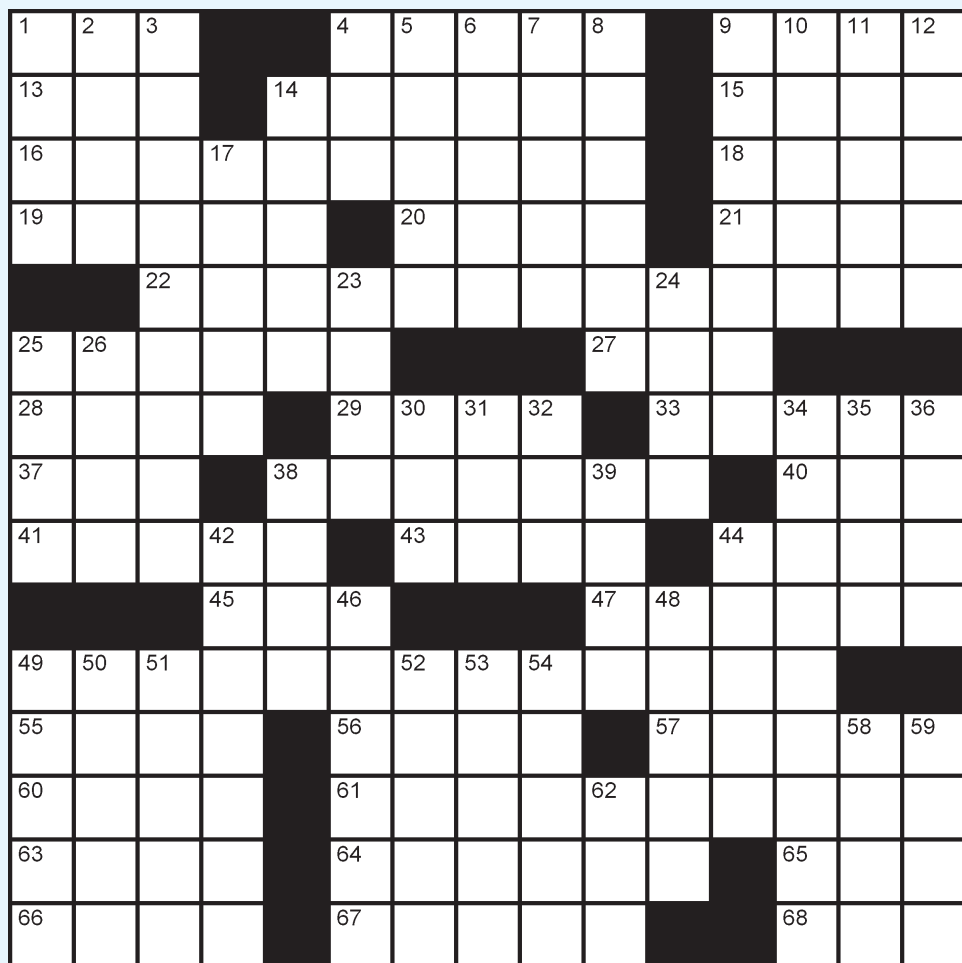


SOLUTIONS



Animation by Gary Larson

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Sound booster
 - 4 Light purple
 - 9 Movie that flops
 - 13 "You stink!"
 - 14 California wine valley
 - 15 Way out there
 - 16 Editor of a 2008 film that features a dog with superpowers?
 - 18 Season for Christmas cookies
 - 19 Get up
 - 20 Volcano in Sicily
 - 21 China's location
 - 22 Online conversation about a 2010 film that features a long-haired princess?
 - 25 ___ Tar Pits
 - 27 Witness
 - 28 Unback birds
 - 29 Volvo rival, once
 - 33 Ramadan rituals
 - 37 ___ Lingus
 - 38 Script version of a 2009 film that features a house with balloons?
 - 40 Period of history
 - 41 Bouillon brand
 - 43 Sweetie pie
 - 44 High school dance
 - 45 Thing to check at a supermarket
 - 47 "Their exact words were ..."
 - 49 Funding source for a 2013 film that features a snow queen?
 - 55 Nevada metropolis
 - 56 Spanish for "water"
 - 57 Perform penance
 - 60 Wise Norse god
 - 61 Co-founder of the studio that distributed this puzzle's films
 - 63 Cube, or certain cubes
 - 64 Attraction
 - 65 Wrath
 - 66 Ironic poems to criticize
 - 67 Visibly upset
 - 68 ___ off (start to doze)
- DOWN**
- 1 Palindromic Swedish band
 - 2 Secure, as a ship
 - 3 Soviet executive committee
 - 4 Baseball great Gehrig
 - 5 Computer chip maker
 - 6 German name hidden in "inkblot test"
 - 7 Formally modify
 - 8 Diamond units
 - 9 Where many 49ers fans live
 - 10 Functional
 - 11 Barack's first daughter
 - 12 Pita, for a gyro
 - 14 Word after "dating" or "deleted"
 - 17 Former Russian rulers
 - 23 Sound shocked
 - 24 Weight
 - 25 Tap trouble
 - 26 Prayer ending
 - 30 Find some sums
 - 31 "Women's rights ___ human rights"
 - 32 Sheep's cry
 - 34 What makes everyone happy?
 - 35 Gait slower than a canter
 - 36 Equivalent
 - 38 Implore
 - 39 Cold, in Colombia
 - 42 Changes from commercial to residential, maybe
 - 44 Fourth-down kicks
 - 46 Constantly irritate
 - 48 Bird in a bevy
 - 49 Hobbit related to Bilbo
 - 50 Overhauled
 - 51 Chilling, like champagne
 - 52 Looking shocked
 - 53 Mea ___
 - 54 Provide food for
 - 58 Successor of Claudius
 - 59 Looked at
 - 62 Calendar square

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021 Rules Cosmically Challenged



The Virgo moon is a follower of rules. The other luminaries object, pointing out that rules are often arbitrary, boundaries are often imagined and, generally speaking, things change. Later, Mercury and Pluto add fun, making doors appear where they weren't before – a delight, but hopefully not a surprise. This is the natural outcome of hard work.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Everywhere you go people are asking for feedback – robots, too. Corporations, social media posts, people around you, it's like your opinion is a precious commodity. Yes, and your attention and time are even more so.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Everything adds to your momentum, even the things that seem to thwart it. Whatever comes up, you'll handle it like a boss, take the necessary recovery time, and then get into the action of accelerating your intentions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The risk worth taking won't involve the lottery or any other kind of game. The gamble to double down on is an investment in you – your education, your dreams or even your whims.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Look for the answer to the trick. The flash pot is redirecting your attention, so what is it they don't want you to look at? What matters is the intention behind the magic. Can you see that, too?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your goal is to create a pleasant social flow and an environment of comfort and familiarity. You deliver better work from that sort of atmosphere and so will the others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When what you do serves a purpose, that's a viable contribution. When what you do changes someone, that's an art. You're happy with the former, though you'll strive for the latter until it's done.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're adhering to a pattern set long ago because it's what has always been expected. But this sequence isn't as fulfilling as you

want it to be. You'll dare to set different expectations, and the others' will change soon after.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've a charming way of letting the other person know that you're engaged in their sharing. For this reason, people will seek your company. They want your reaction and will ask for it time and again.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Don't let the jittery rhythm of the day stop you from forward movement. You'll find yourself doing a highly original dance – a dance you couldn't have found without this unusual beat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll adjust your thinking in regard to a hobby. It's becoming more like work. You approach it like a professional. Whether you're getting paid for it is beside the point. Your attitude changes your game.

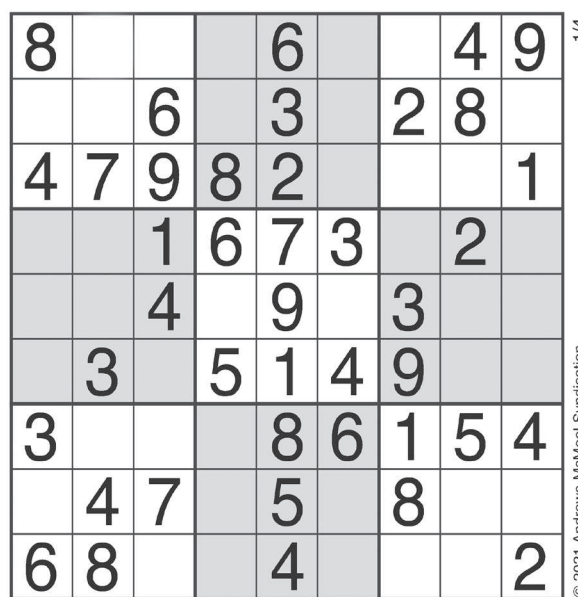
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your attraction to someone is based in an attraction to the "you" that emerges when you're around this person. Seize this shiny opportunity to play a different role, one that's focused on your common interests.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You embrace the process of creation in service to improvement. Creativity thrives in the same sort of environment that nurtures children – acceptance, support and a set of lovingly, consistently enforced rules.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 4). From where you currently sit on this whimsical path, you couldn't possibly guess the wonders ahead. Moneymaking opportunities come in new forms. February and June sparkle with social excitement and new relationships. Summer swirls around a singular goal and the dream team to make it happen. Virgo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 33, 12, 4, 18 and 39.

Universal SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



SOLUTIONS

