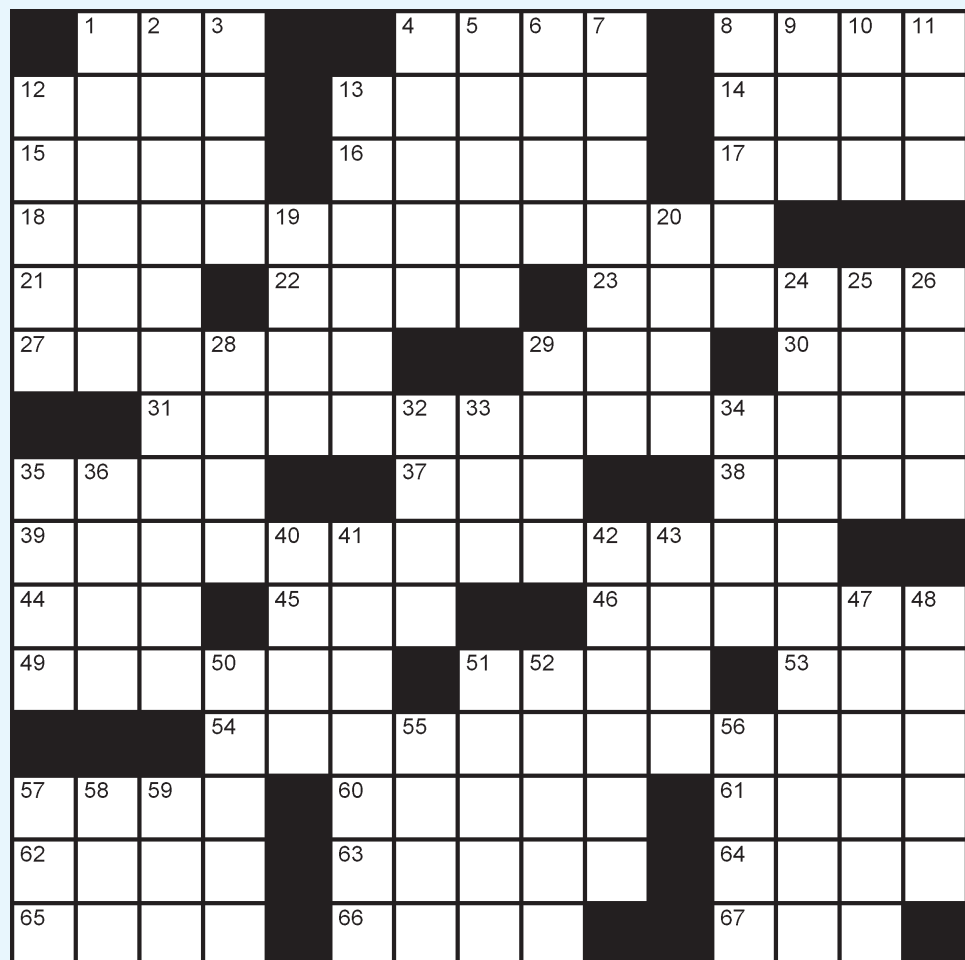


Flower Arrangement by Rob and Mary Lou Guizzo

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Texter's "No more details, please!"
 - 4 Files for Adobe Reader
 - 8 Needed to repay
 - 12 U.S. Pacific territory
 - 13 Forewarn
 - 14 Novelist Neale Hurston
 - 15 "Frozen" snow queen
 - 16 Creme de So-so
 - 18 Auto-racing fans, collectively (see letters 4 to 12 in this answer)
 - 21 Demolition letters
 - 22 "The ___ Little Puppy"
 - 23 Little angel
 - 27 Twilled fabrics
 - 29 "Not again!"
 - 30 "There ___ no words ..."
 - 31 Maya Angelou's third volume of poetry (9 to 12)
 - 35 "Frozen" princess
 - 37 U-turn from WSW
 - 38 One of five Norwegian kings
- DOWN**
- 1 New Orleans school
 - 2 Trains, buses and planes
 - 3 Apple desktop
 - 4 Core exercise
 - 5 Canine problem?
 - 6 Sorority relative, informally
 - 7 Unlikely to show anger
 - 8 Stratospheric layer
 - 9 Kao pad cooker
 - 10 Obama (when Sonia Sotomayor was appointed)
 - 11 One of 365 in 2021
 - 12 Chivalrous guys
 - 13 Word above this puzzle's first clue
 - 19 Imitated
 - 20 "Didn't think we'd both be here!"
 - 24 It's under a track
 - 25 Nocturnal bear?
 - 26 Patty meat
 - 28 Tiny part of an annoying cloud
 - 29 Longtime sitcom about a musical club
- ACROSS**
- 39 It may be bitter or sweet (2 to 6)
 - 44 Bon ___ (cleanser brand)
 - 45 Little guy
 - 46 Dorothy of old films
 - 49 Abhor
 - 51 Certainly not cheery
 - 53 36-Down within "Danielle"
 - 54 Classic children's book that hints at this puzzle's hidden words, with "The"
 - 57 Grilling events, briefly
 - 60 Painter Matisse
 - 61 H's, in sorority names
 - 62 Actress Jessica
 - 63 Printer brand
 - 64 Carpenter's clamp
 - 65 Online crafts site
 - 66 Digits you can wiggle
 - 67 Realize
- DOWN**
- 32 Ticked (off)
 - 33 LLC relative
 - 34 One of nine in Clue
 - 35 Barely
 - 36 Miss Scarlet or Dr. Orchid
 - 40 When all ___ fails
 - 41 Increase incrementally, with "up"
 - 42 Software add-on
 - 43 Actress Reid
 - 47 Disquiet
 - 48 Dishwasher cycle
 - 50 Part of a college application, often
 - 51 Packed in like sardines
 - 52 Others, in Spanish
 - 55 Forfeited auto
 - 56 Races, as an engine
 - 57 Honey
 - 58 Sandwich with crisp meat, for short
 - 59 TD throwers, perhaps

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021 Mars Gets Hungry



Instant gratification is like alcohol served at a party. It may be a festive thing to offer others, though the host is better off partaking very little or abstaining altogether. This Mars entrance into Taurus, the sign of appetite, is an excellent time for temperance. Don't let the execution of plans get sloppy with overindulgence.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've seen yourself in a certain role, tried it on, played around, and now things are getting real. The role is no longer something you put on when you're feeling it; it's now part of who you are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You now suspect that you sacrificed your time and passion for prizes that aren't coming. Still, you gained something in working up the fervor that will never leave you. Pack up and apply your energy elsewhere.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Anyone can have intentions, and lots of people do. But it's action that matters and even more than that, repetitive action. Keep at it regardless if it is currently working. These slight shifts for the better are starting to add up.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Unlike a cellphone, you cannot plug into the wall and get charged up. However, the time you spend in, near or drinking water will be rejuvenating on many levels.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Financial jackpots often solve problems only to create more expensive ones. The real lottery win is always internal. It's the sweepstakes of the soul that pay out continuously and keep adding more joy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People who follow recipes well like to say that anyone can follow a recipe, but that's not really true. Some are better at duplicating and others are almost pathologically inclined to stray. Deliciousness can come from either approach.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your path differs from your friend's path, but the way you walk it is so similar. You participate in the same kinds of practices, rituals and manners of delivery. You can help one another through supportive sharing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's an unsettling sensation you get from searching for something you're not even sure exists. If you were a blind follower, you wouldn't have to feel it. You're not, so you'll bear discomfort in the name of discovery.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Usually, you like to take a stance, though what's the rush? Right now, it's a good time to hedge your bets. Relatedly, make your words sweet and tender just in case you have to eat them later.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Go with your altruistic leanings. You're filled with purpose and will soon be surrounded by grateful people. The more you help people, the more you want to.

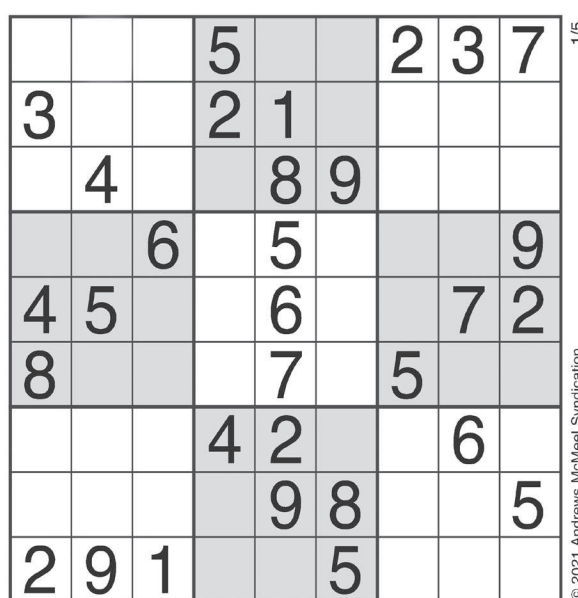
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You meet the challenge, and then the next one and the next. This is how you become mighty. When the stakes are high and the time is limited, you'll do your best work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Planning, prevention and proactive moves will serve you well. This time next month you'll be thanking yourself. This time next year, you'll call the person reading this right now an "absolute genius!"

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 6). You'll ace the test, comply with instructions and move on to the next level. It's impressive but not nearly as soul-satisfying as when you, time and again this year, contribute the inventiveness that only you can give. You'll double down on your vision, approaching work and love with unparalleled creativity. Gemini and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 10, 3, 33 and 42.

Universal SUDOKU

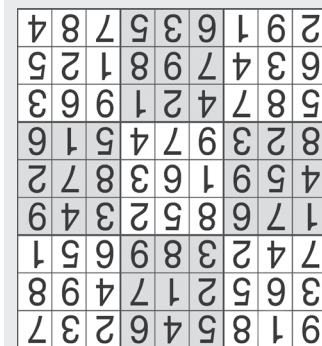
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

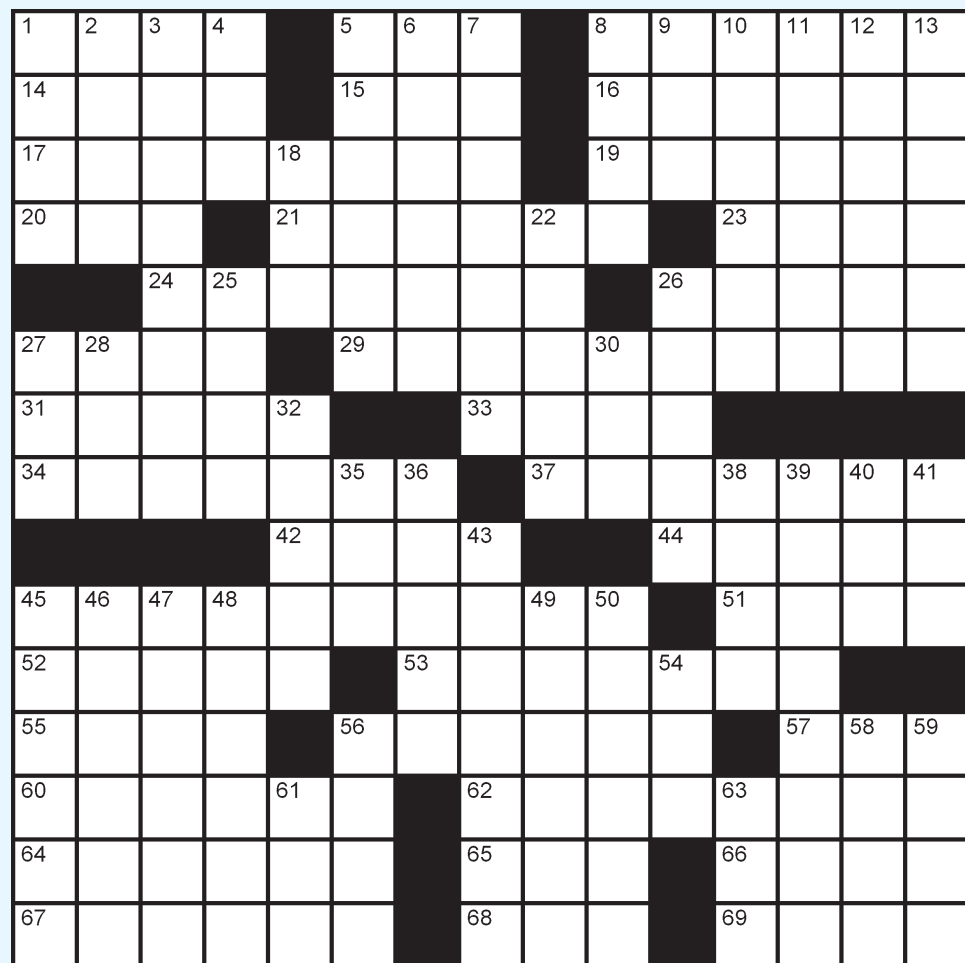


SOLUTIONS



Opposite Ends by Olivia Mitra Framke

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Have to
 - 5 African antelope
 - 8 Lend a helping hand
 - 14 Kindergarten essentials
 - 15 Not just speedwalk
 - 16 Simple shelter
 - 17 "Inventory problem for an office supply store?"
 - 19 Elephant or giraffe
 - 20 Start of a new
 - 21 "Except if ..."
 - 23 Behind schedule
 - 24 Garment resembling a tube top
 - 26 Exercised one's right at the ballot box
 - 27 Poetic globes
 - 29 "Hotel honoring the first Latina EGOT winner?"
 - 31 Hollywood products
 - 33 Emphatic assent, in Seville
 - 34 "___ (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)"
- DOWN**
- 1 Puzzle with many lines
 - 2 Popular ride-booking app
 - 3 Game originally named Criss-Crosswords
 - 4 General of Chinese-American cuisine
 - 5 Popular LGBTQ+ dating app
 - 6 Protons' places
 - 7 Ousts from office
 - 8 Woeful cry
 - 9 D.C. figure
 - 10 One who left port ... and calls left "port"
 - 11 Person whom the National Prison Project advocates for
 - 12 ___ Island (NYC borough)
 - 13 Ohio birthplace of Gloria Steinem
 - 18 Hair ball?
 - 22 "___ Q" (1968 CCR hit)
 - 25 Acronym for tingle-inducing videos (MARS anagram)
 - 26 It can be hushed
- ACROSS**
- 37 Disguised, as a message
 - 42 Oodles
 - 44 Crumble away
 - 45 *Motorized candy dispenser?
 - 51 Temporary beds
 - 52 Healing plants
 - 53 Salad dressing ingredient
 - 55 Any minute now
 - 56 Didn't bother?
 - 57 "___ 'em!" (order to a dog)
 - 60 Olympic gymnastics champion Biles
 - 62 All-encompassing, or a description for each starred answer's letter change?
 - 64 Log-on name
 - 65 Sign for much of August
 - 66 Early video game release
 - 67 Rides a bike
 - 68 So far
 - 69 Trade blows
- DOWN**
- 27 Friend-friend connection?
 - 28 Edge
 - 30 ISP with a butterfly logo
 - 32 Expresses disappointment
 - 35 Dove sound
 - 36 Overhead
 - 38 Highly social whale
 - 39 Threshold
 - 40 NYC summer hrs.
 - 41 ___ Moines
 - 43 How guards walk
 - 45 Let go, as an opportunity
 - 46 Plaza Hotel girl
 - 47 Rocketed
 - 48 Lady of Spain
 - 49 Main course
 - 50 Techie's suggestion, often
 - 54 Stone on a crown
 - 56 Bulbs in some signs, briefly
 - 58 Tiny bit
 - 59 Powerful policymaker
 - 61 Zilch
 - 63 Targets of many pilates exercises

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021 Just Before the Shift



This is that quiet moment right before things shift. It's the slumber party settling in to sleep, when every noise after stillness seems hilarious. Before you joke around, consider the rules: Comedy is tragedy plus distance. The distance can be created by time or space. The unfortunate thing happening to someone far away will hit the laugh jackpot.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Even though there is no one better qualified than you to enhance your reputation, reputations are always the domain of other people. Still, you'll find subtle ways to get them to sing your praises.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The moment something major is going on for someone you care about is your time to shine as a supporter and true friend. This is not that. This is preparation for that. Gather your statements and talking points.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your intuitive inklings will be correct. You'll bet on a hunch and win. Said "bet" may be made with money but will more likely be an investment of time, attention and heart.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Lightheartedness has a time and place – maybe most of the time and a good percentage of the places. Today, though, you'll dig into your more serious purposes. This is it. Bring the grit.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Leave space for the other person to express his or her heart, soul and being. You'll learn. You'll be delighted – and baffled. Leaving space, allowing the air to go dead, is a kind of invitation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Frustration gets misplaced. The problem with the vacuum cleaner is released on the dog, etc. Knowing this, you don't take things personally when someone you love is in an edgy state.

exist in several worlds and times. You're recalling the pertinent information of yesterday, nudging tomorrow in a direction, sitting with mixed reviews.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The friends who told you that you were on the rise were met with your skeptical eyes. But here you are, risen, to a degree – not the ultimate degree you will grow, but you're getting there. Take it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Shakespeare's Henry VI said, "Of all base passions, fear is most accursed." But fear doesn't have to turn into a passion. Nip it in the bud. Face it when it's small.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Thinking of other people – sometimes you think it's a lost art. You don't know why, considering you think of other people all the live-long day. You'll be delighted tonight by the proof that someone is thinking of you.

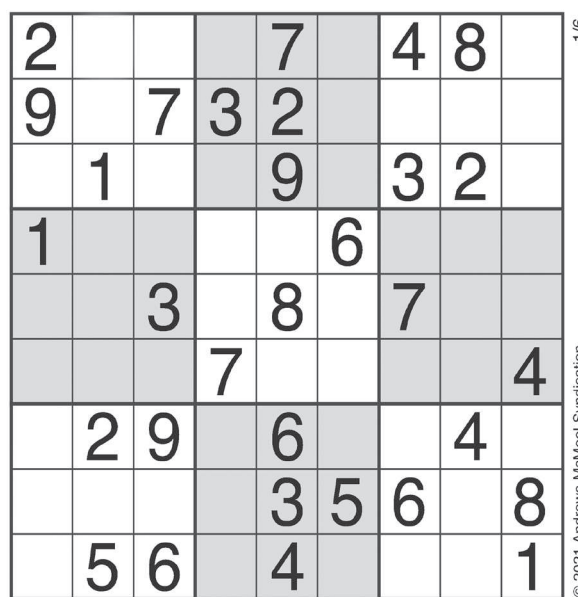
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your truth will be requested by people who want to know where you stand. People making plans based on your truth, well, it's one way to go, though you'd prefer they wait a minute so you can figure it out organically.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll help another make a psychological jump. You've been there, and you made that leap with your sheer force of will, or by the challenge of those who really know how to get under your skin.

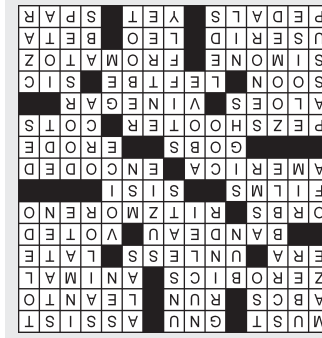
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 7). Think back to the things that didn't work out – jobs you didn't get, situations that didn't celebrate you. This year represents the sweetest turnaround. You'll be lauded for uniqueness. You'll make a difference by the original way you solve problems. Truly, you'll later point to this year when you need a reference for when it all went right. Aries and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 24, 21, 29 and 13.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

