

Skip Jack by Paul Coulter
Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg

11x11 crossword grid with numbers 1-72 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS: 1 Figuratively tickle, 6 Mushroom feature, 9 "Well, well, well!", 12 Like kimchi, 14 Some NYC roads, 16 Bobblehead's movement, 17 "The Road Not Taken" poet, 19 Words from a groom, 20 Big name in skin care, 21 Road salt, 22 One may help you move forward, 23 Grannies, 25 El ___ (Spanish hero), 26 Author Patchett or Beattie, 28 Appropriate, 30 64-Across deposits, 33 Military plane's place: Abbr., 36 Brilliant feats, 39 Desert in southern Mongolia, 40 Santana hit with the lyric "Got your spell on me baby", 44 Straw bundle, 45 Hawaiian island or porch, 46 E reader at a checkup?, 47 Exploit, as power, 49 Stomach muscles, 50 Cardinals' letters, 51 January hrs. in Chicago, 53 "Se ___ espanol", 58 Cambridge sch., 60 Everyone except you, 63 Diving great, 64 Louganis, 64 Bonanza find, 65 Rescued soldier in a 1998 film, 67 Guessing competition, 68 Gutter locale, 69 Anxiety, 70 Switch positions, 71 Ballpoint ___, 72 Bumper problems, 33 *Lawyers' org., 34 * ___ Four (the Beatles), 35 *Talks loudly and boastfully, 37 Green org.?, 38 Frank of the Rat Pack, 41 *Approx., 42 Vehicle to hail, 43 Desire, 48 Run off to the chapel, 51 Fleck that may be mixed into sour cream, 52 Sum of this clue's digits, 54 "A Death in the Family" author, 55 *High-fiber muffin type, 56 *In case, 57 *Gets on in years, 58 Magic charm, 59 Country whose name could be parsed as a sentence, 61 Mouth, informally, 62 Nickname between R and V, 66 Call off

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2021 The Cosmic Hendrix Situation



Active skies. Mercury enters Aquarius. Venus enters Capricorn. Mercury squares Mars. If today were a song, it would be "Crosstown Traffic" by The Jimi Hendrix Experience. Even though there is very little congestion on the actual roads of this pandemic traffic flow, still, many will lament, "It's so hard to get through to you."
ARIES (March 21-April 19). What happens all of the sudden is exciting for several reasons, the foremost being that you don't have time to think. Your animal self takes over, and you do what you were designed to do.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When the student is ready, the master appears. You feel ready, and yet there is still a piece you haven't committed to yet. You'll read it, work it or do whatever needs doing. Then your teacher will arrive.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Make a decision and stick with it for three days. There is no such thing as a perfect choice. Don't waste energy trying to find it. You don't know who is watching your bravery, but later, this will be significant.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). Add heat or time and you'll notice that the reduction of things is unique to the object. Some things become more concentrated, some less, the universal principal being that everything changes.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). They love you, but they don't know how to show you. This is a bittersweet theme that you can make all sweet by telling them what you want and need and making it easy for them to give it to you.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Asking for help when you need it isn't a sign of weakness; rather, it's the picture of effectiveness. Strength is the result of a willful force coming up against a worthy adversary.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Different forums have different structures. Sports favor the one with the most points. Entertainment favors the ones with the most followers. In the forum you're navigating today, charm wins, so you have the home-team advantage.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are so few people in the world who are actually funny. You discount the gift because you were born with it and it is common to you. You won't discount it today. Your humor helps people, and you'll share it.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't need to reinvent the wheel here. Figure out what you did right back there, and just do more of that. It's not hard to spot. What's harder is taking the time to be with yourself, recognize and note it.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your people are coming out of the woodwork. When you think about it, that is a slightly creepy concept, and yet it is the most fitting image. You're an organic creature calling to the same.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You thought you had the time to work things out, and maybe you misjudged that. It's a common problem. Things can be worked out. Just know that everything you do is being counted.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Test it. Go there. Something is going to happen - something uncomfortable, maybe even painful for a moment. But what if this is your one and only life? Whatcha got?
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 8). How are you putting your skills out there? This is the year that amplifies what you are good at, lifts your effervescent spirit into the ether and calls into the beauty of your kindreds. Together, you will be like a wave, providing a voyage, a ride, a mix-up of energies and processes. You're a proud pulse in the beautiful swell. Aquarius and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 40, 22, 19 and 38.

Universal SUDOKU

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

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers pre-filled: 2, 4, 8, 7, 9, 5, 8, 1, 2, 5, 1, 3, 1, 5, 6, 3, 2, 1, 8, 9, 7, 5, 6, 8, 2, 3, 1, 9, 5, 2, 5, 3, 1, 4, 9, 7, 6, 8.

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

9x9 grid for solutions, with numbers 1-9 in each cell.

SOLUTIONS

9x9 grid showing the solution to the Sudoku puzzle: 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 5, 1, 7, 4; 9, 6, 8, 7, 2, 4, 1, 5, 3; 7, 5, 7, 8, 3, 1, 8, 5, 9; 8, 4, 2, 6, 3, 1, 7, 5, 8; 4, 7, 6, 9, 5, 3, 2, 1, 8; 3, 1, 5, 2, 8, 4, 6, 7, 9; 1, 8, 9, 7, 5, 6, 8, 2, 4, 3; 7, 6, 4, 8, 2, 3, 1, 9, 5; 2, 5, 3, 1, 4, 9, 7, 6, 8.

Critical Thinking by Kyra Wilson
Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg

12x12 crossword grid with numbers 1-61 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS: 1 Highway roller?, 4 Cozy inn, informally, 9 Feature of a fire station, 13 Plumbing problem, 15 '60s activist, Hoffman, 16 18-Down, to Gabriel Garcia Marquez, 17 Series of remarks like "Your message is loaded with typos!?", 19 Golden Rule, 20 Cause of kids' eye rolls, perhaps, 21 "This is heavenly!", 23 Jakarta's Indonesian island, 24 Victimizes, with "on", 25 Part of an act, 27 Series of remarks like "Mary never liked you much anyway!?", 31 Ripped, 32 Present topper, 33 Mother of the Shakers (rhymes with "Stanley"), 34 Students' cards, briefly, 35 Bit of gel, 36 Suffix for "percent", 37 Belg. neighbor, 38 An insect may smell with one, 40 IM chortle, 41 Secretive "Hey!", 42 Series of remarks like "Your donut tastes awful!?", 44 Word after "wild" or "educated", 45 Skin exfoliant, 46 Fender blemish, 47 "Bet you can't beat me!", 50 "Do my eyes deceive me?", 53 Inactive, 54 Series of remarks like "Your sonnet is 11 on the boring meter!?", 56 12 p.m., 57 "Quick!", 58 Captain's place, 59 Crafts' partner, 60 Restroom division, 61 Handyperson's initials, 30 What some prefer to phone calls, 32 Charts with rectangles, 35 Dame Judi, 36 Particle like Na+, 39 Pays attention, 40 Chemist's workplace, 41 Say "No TV for a week" to, perhaps, 43 Extinguish, 44 Millennials, briefly, 46 Hannah of "Splash", 47 Comedian Fey, 48 Febreze target, 49 Scheme, 50 Lower-left PC key, 51 Denpasar's Indonesian island, 52 Award for "Schitt's Creek", 55 Softball pitcher's stat

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2021 Venus & Mars Call for Heroic Love



The sign says, "Love like you've never been hurt." Of course, that kind of love is worthless. To love like your skin has been peeled off before - and it's about to happen again - that's worth something. The cosmic call of today's Venus and Mars trine is for heart-hardy heroes only. It's for those who know what's at stake and go forward anyway.
ARIES (March 21-April 19). As much as you want a situation, territory or person to be yours, some things can't be owned. Nevertheless, it won't hurt to put your stamp on it and see what happens. Perhaps, the unownable thing can be borrowed for a while.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you're in need of support, then ask for it. You don't like to be in the down position, but maybe you are thinking of it in a limited way. "Help me" is an opportunity for someone. Are you willing to give someone an opportunity?
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). One way to show someone you like them is to tease them. Teasing requires knowledge of a person. It requires that you know someone enough to know what's going to snag and engage their attention. You'll play it like a master.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). Who is curious enough? That is the burning question of the day because so much will go unexamined. Stuff that ruins the world for humans goes unexamined every minute. Who is curious enough to solve it?
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You like drama and can spot it from a mile away. The question is if you should become a part of it or just be a spectator? Should you make it your own? Only you know the answer.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Maybe it boils down to work ethic. You see something amazing and beautiful and now you must decide if it is good enough for you to throw down your energy and effort to make it a part of your own personal scenery.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're proud of how little you want from others, but consider that sometimes asking for help is actually a gift. People need to feel useful. What they do for you gives something back to them.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You always have a choice about on whom to spend your attention. To give to the one that demands it is, in all its urgency, still a choice. Think twice and then love your decision.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Rainbow illusions will drive the day. It's not that the pot of gold doesn't exist; it's that the end of the rainbow, being illusory, is an unquantifiable number. Set your goals on more tangible figures.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You love. You don't agree. That's OK. Love doesn't come with the implicit agreement-only package. It does come with a tolerance package that suggests you'll work things out in time.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You get to be the person you want to be because you A) thought it out, and then B) tried it on in your own private way and later C) projected it onto the world. Keep it up. You're on to something.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're not someone who lets everything blend into the scenery of life. You're focused on what matters. When you see that something's wrong, call it out and make sure that others see it, too.
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 9). You create loveliness in your personal environment, not because you're an artistic elitist but because you have taste and style that naturally shines through you. Keep working on the things that look good to you, as your senses are supernaturally attuned to make wonders happen for yourself and others. Gemini and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 33, 22, 14 and 18.

Universal SUDOKU

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

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers pre-filled: 9, 7, 2, 6, 3, 3, 4, 1, 4, 2, 6, 5, 8, 6, 4, 5, 1, 8, 9, 5, 2, 1, 8.

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

9x9 grid for solutions, with numbers 1-9 in each cell.

SOLUTIONS

9x9 grid showing the solution to the Sudoku puzzle: 6, 9, 4, 6, 7, 3, 5, 8, 1; 2, 8, 5, 3, 7, 9, 6, 8, 4; 3, 6, 4, 1, 8, 9, 5, 7, 2; 7, 5, 4, 2, 8, 6, 9, 3, 1; 9, 8, 6, 3, 1, 4, 7, 2, 5; 2, 7, 9, 5, 8, 6, 9, 6, 5; 4, 3, 1, 7, 2, 6, 7, 6, 7; 8, 5, 8, 4, 5, 2, 9, 7, 6; 9, 4, 7, 2, 3, 9, 6, 1, 8, 5; 8, 5, 2, 7, 9, 1, 3, 6, 4.