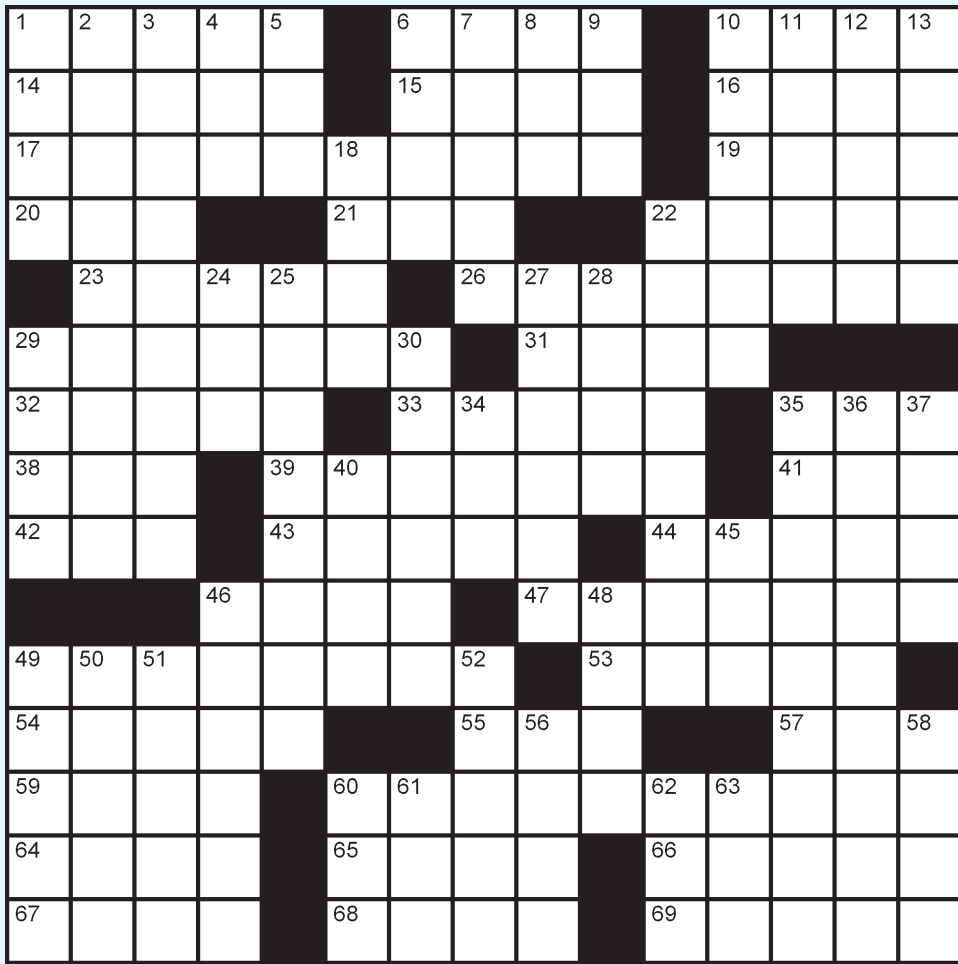


Knife Skills by Lynn Lempel

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Flat-topped hills of the Southwest
 - 6 Band with a museum in Stockholm
 - 10 Device downloads
 - 14 Put forth, as effort
 - 15 Troubles
 - 16 Chowder chunk
 - 17 Speak vaguely
 - 19 Adobe abode, perhaps
 - 20 See 38-Across
 - 21 Title boxer of a 2001 biopic
 - 22 Election participant
 - 23 Fragrant purple shrub
 - 26 5, for 125
 - 29 Barry with the hit song "Mandy"
 - 31 Stereotypical mathlete
 - 32 Unskilled
 - 33 In an unfriendly manner
 - 35 Amt. based on 100
 - 38 With 20-Across, first National Leaguer to hit 500 home runs
 - 39 Twitter symbol
 - 41 Hollywood's "Norma ___"
 - 42 School commencement?
 - 43 Greatest Hits song, often
 - 44 Air spray targets
 - 46 Martial art with throws
 - 47 Marriage partners
 - 49 Yahtzee, e.g.
 - 53 Take into the family, as a shelter dog
 - 54 Wharton who wrote "Ethan Frome"
 - 55 Harvard Univ. neighbor
 - 57 Seine substance
 - 59 Risks money at the track
 - 60 Sushi-eating implements
 - 64 Current craze
 - 65 ___ California (Mexican state)
 - 66 Entered a poker game
 - 67 Gobs and gobs
 - 68 Declined
 - 69 Iraqi port
- DOWN**
- 1 Note from the boss
 - 2 They connect to off-ramps
 - 3 Guards keeping watch
 - 4 Curve
 - 5 Sault ___ Marie, Michigan
 - 6 Deserter's acronym
 - 7 Kind of acid used as an antiseptic
 - 8 Hotel room essential
 - 9 Numbskull
 - 10 International agreement
 - 11 Greek author of the "Republic"
 - 12 Sporty '90s Toyota
 - 13 Brainy
 - 18 Texas home of Baylor University
 - 22 "Nice job!"
 - 24 Half a kissing couple?
 - 25 However
 - 27 Joins forces
 - 28 Composer Bartok
 - 29 Speechless performer
 - 30 Sagacity
 - 34 Tai ___
 - 35 Possibilities
 - 36 Pet owner, for one
 - 37 Hardy's Miss Durbeyfield
 - 40 Alan of "Bridge of Spies"
 - 45 Twosome
 - 46 Social elites on the go
 - 48 Bits of butter
 - 49 Actress Messing of "Will & Grace"
 - 50 Embodiment of perfection
 - 51 Gas station name
 - 52 Texted image with an attitude
 - 56 Tablet for surfers
 - 58 Fed. food and farming agency
 - 60 "Big Brother" network
 - 61 Computer in "2001: A Space Odyssey"
 - 62 Bar bill
 - 63 ___ jiffy

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021 *Martian Message*



Good decisions are made of sound minds acting on favorable odds. Good outcomes are up to the fates. While good decisions have a better probability of creating good outcomes, the best decision of all is to be proud enough of the action that the outcome is irrelevant. This message was brought to you by a square of Mars and Jupiter.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's not that some are worthy of your attention and others aren't, but you can only give your attention to one at a time. Now, there is the matter of fitting the right offering to the one who can extract value from it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You would like to hear that you are the best at something, and you don't even care if it's true or not. Maybe it will become true in time, but right now the chiming sound of those melodious words is gift enough.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Great work in its early stages looks a lot like a mess, a blunder or a confusing pile of disparate elements. There are no failures, and no successes either – only prototypes of varying effectiveness in serving the original purpose.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's as though you have a committee inside of you, and you will do what the majority vote tells you to do. If there are conflicting ideas, expect inaction. You're hard to convince, even when you're the one doing the convincing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your instincts are dead-on. When you trust someone, you're open to their surprises. And when you don't trust someone, there is no reason to be involved at all.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's no need to wonder about whether what you're giving today is good enough. You sense what others are missing and fill in the blanks for them. What could be more elegant than this?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The current cosmic

alignment activates your play mode. You might even find yourself performing for your phone -- harmless enough, as long as you realize that there's something irreversible about hitting "send."

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The fortuitous arrangement has not been forthcoming. What gives? You don't like their offer. They don't respond to yours. It's all a signal to broaden the search terms.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). This weird bit is true: "Failing" at a new task is far more satisfying than succeeding at a task you've already mastered. The quotations are used because it's very possible that "failure" is just an early version of success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Others may be happy when you take the known road, but you're not in charge of the happiness of others, you're in charge of your own happiness, which is more likely to unfold when you take the other one.

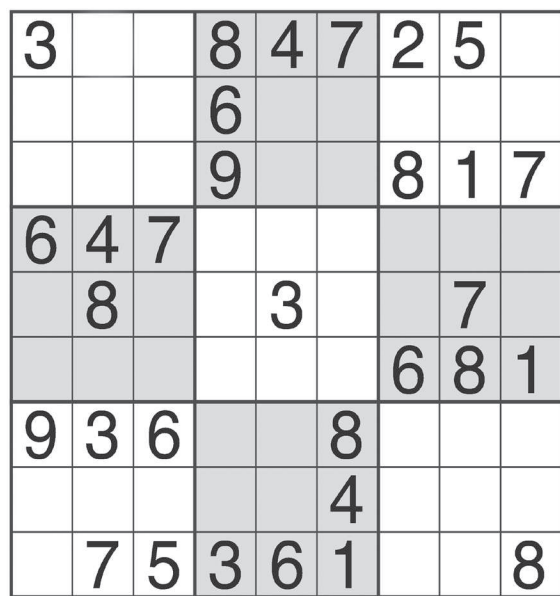
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Sometimes, you need space, and other times you need closeness. You appreciate the one who understands the limits of intense engagements and follows up intensity with sweetness and distance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your empathy is a talent for sure, but it can also be overwhelming to feel so much for others when you cannot do anything about those feelings. Whatever you can do to be communicative and persuasive will help.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 22). You'll manage others like a boss, and you'll delegate like a psychic. The most impressive part is that you do this outside of a work context. Maybe it's a weird thing to celebrate, but you cannot argue this impressive fact of your talent – people love being ordered around by you. The windfall comes in August. Pisces and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 5, 12, 28 and 17.

Universal SUDOKU

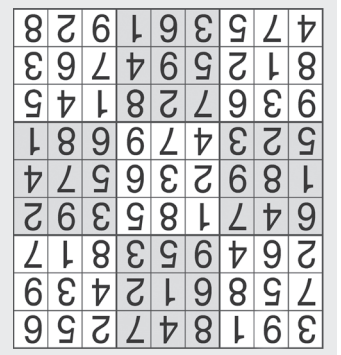
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

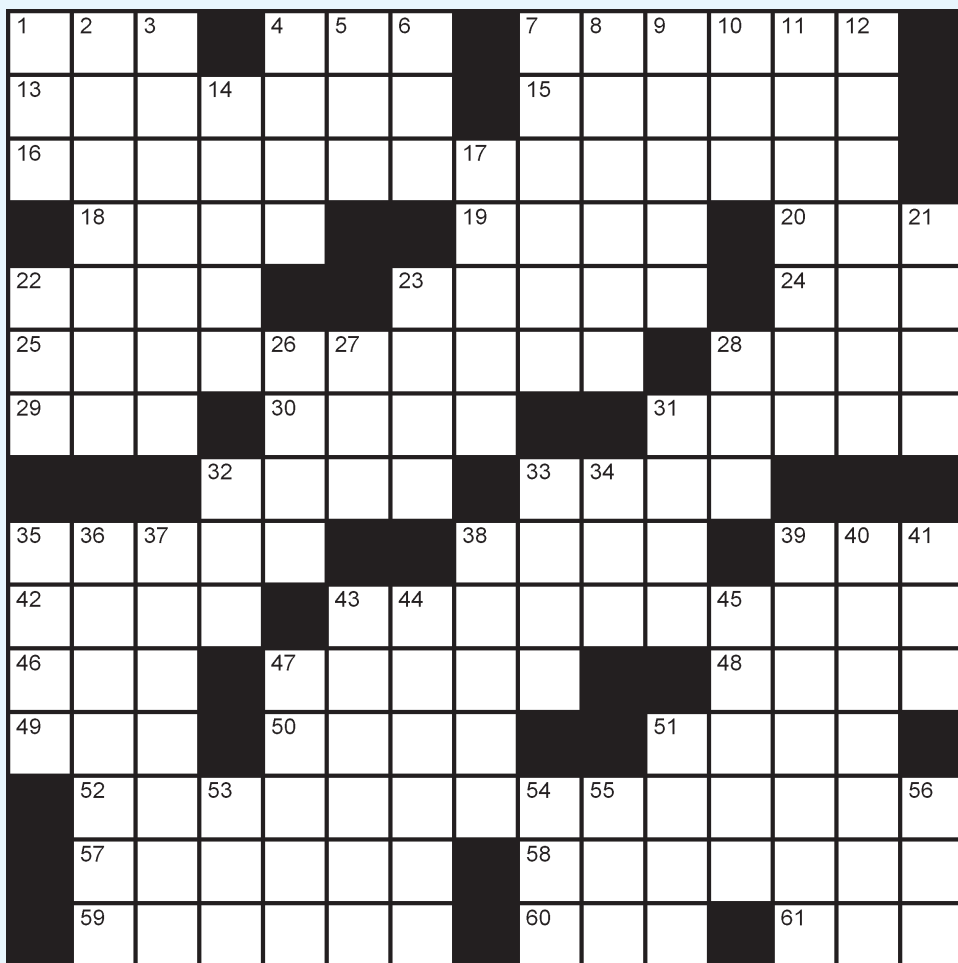


SOLUTIONS



College Expenses by Erik Agard

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Mid-show plugs
 - 4 Sloth, for one
 - 7 Denizen of Doha
 - 13 ___ effect (memory bias toward items at the end of a list)
 - 15 Password go-with
 - 16 Tuition at a Wisconsin school?
 - 18 Actor or politician Jones
 - 19 Long-legged bird
 - 20 Kit ___
 - 22 In-land connector
 - 23 "Nothing Runs Like a ___" (machinery slogan)
 - 24 D.C. United's sports org.
 - 25 Tuition at a Texas school?
 - 28 Crossing instruction
 - 29 Many internship applicants, briefly
 - 30 Bread from a tandoor
 - 31 Musical awards
 - 32 With 33-Across, tuition at a Pennsylvania school?
 - 33 See 32-Across
 - 35 Monastery leader
 - 38 Pinkie's where?
 - 39 You might hold one in captivity, or vice versa
 - 42 Wheelie
 - 43 Tuition at an Iowa school?
 - 46 Ice cream brand founder Joseph
 - 47 A triceratops had three
 - 48 "Understood"
 - 49 Blue expanse
 - 50 Dorsey of TV
 - 51 Tolkien tree creatures
 - 52 Tuition at a Louisiana school?
 - 57 ___ Powers, aptly named women's basketball star
 - 58 "Oh, who cares?"
 - 59 Babyproofing goal
 - 60 Era
 - 61 Have a go at
- DOWN**
- 1 Body part that some robots imitate
 - 2 Radio host's fear
 - 3 Goes down a web page
 - 4 Comfortable
 - 5 It hardens in a tray
 - 6 Paper HQ'd in Manhattan
 - 7 Ontario neighbor
 - 8 Have dreams
 - 9 Most definitely dissimilar to this clue
 - 10 Singer Grande's nickname
 - 11 Alan who played Snape
 - 12 "In the optimal case..."
 - 14 ___ pay
 - 17 Cross-promotional ploy
 - 21 Disapproving clucks
 - 22 Prez from Texas
 - 23 "Tarnation!"
 - 26 "Doing that now"
 - 27 It can be in the fire
 - 28 Triumphed
 - 31 Neat
 - 32 Old-fashioned ailment
 - 33 Some can be unscrewed
 - 34 "Snakes ___ Plane"
 - 35 Cards with A's
 - 36 Corner stores
 - 37 Palo Alto's region
 - 38 Matisse or Rousseau
 - 39 Most viable option
 - 40 Very low-rated
 - 41 Chowd down
 - 43 Fighting
 - 44 By mouth
 - 45 Plied a pickax
 - 47 Friend, informally
 - 51 Maze component
 - 53 Barking sound
 - 54 Joel Embiid's sports org.
 - 55 Party, e.g., for a DJ
 - 56 Tricksy

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2021 *Selfless Square*



The golden rule of doing unto others as you would have done to you is only awesome when everyone wants the same thing. Today, follow the platinum rule instead, giving people what they most want and leaving your own preferences out of it. Oddly enough, this Mars square Jupiter suggests you credit yourself for selflessness.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You will take confident action that affects every area of your life. Being strong, decisive and outspoken in one situation makes it easier to be the same the next time and the next.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll see the overall picture that others are losing sight of. Speak up about it! By nature, you are an executive who will manage others and delegate masterfully.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Today, your expertise centers around balancing. Mostly it is a matter of core strength and quick reflexes, plus being ready to make adjustments necessary to maintain equilibrium.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The question of the day: Should you save or invest? Unless you're absolutely so passionate about the prospects that you don't mind losing money to them, opt for saving.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). One person's treat is another person's punishment. Getting to know what others like is a pursuit that has the potential to, ultimately, bring pleasure to all.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The way you see things will affect how others see them. You're like a lighting director applying the colored gel to diffuse the scene in just the right tones.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're not one to grind away at a futile task, but if you have the slightest indication that it matters to a few people, then you'll

give it your absolute all. This you'll do whether paid, unpaid, ignored or celebrated.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). While busily doing what it takes to survive within the context of an environment you have landed in, it's easy to forget where your choices lie. You'll wake up to a circumstance and see your options anew.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Shy people intrigue you. You also feel a degree of social anxiety but will not let that deter you from getting to know people and letting them know you, which is among the most pleasurable experiences of life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). In the coaching community, the question is worded, "How are you showing up?" If posed this question, your own community would probably answer, "Super strong."

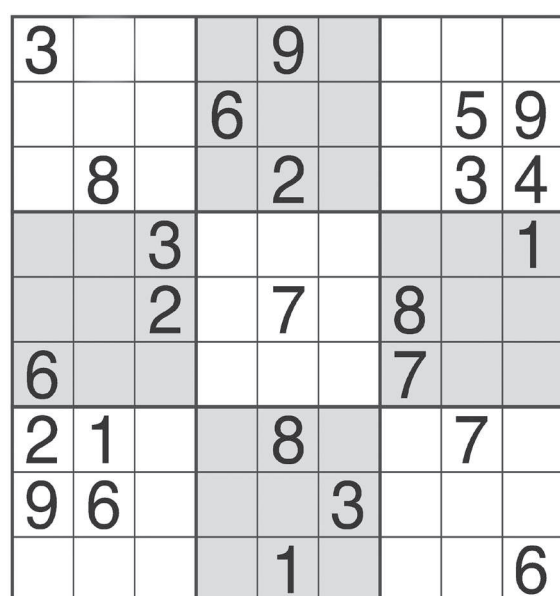
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There is absolutely no use in wishing you were anywhere else. Your current location and state of being as a good a place to start from as any, and much better than most.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The downtime isn't really downtime at all. It's a chance for you to get better acquainted with your surroundings and the cast of characters who will be with you on the next adventure. Take advantage.

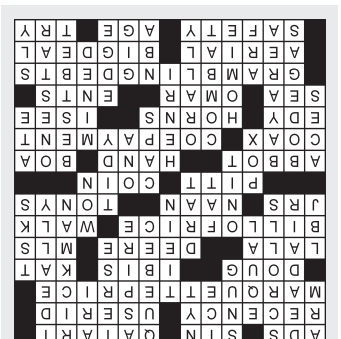
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 23). You are well aware that anything worth accomplishing is done through blood, sweat and tears, and you're not averse to the investment. The adventure your restless soul has not been able to take will now call you forward – better even are the funds that show up to aid in this. Best of all is the company you'll keep in this journey. Libra and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 15, 1, 24 and 18.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★★



SOLUTIONS

