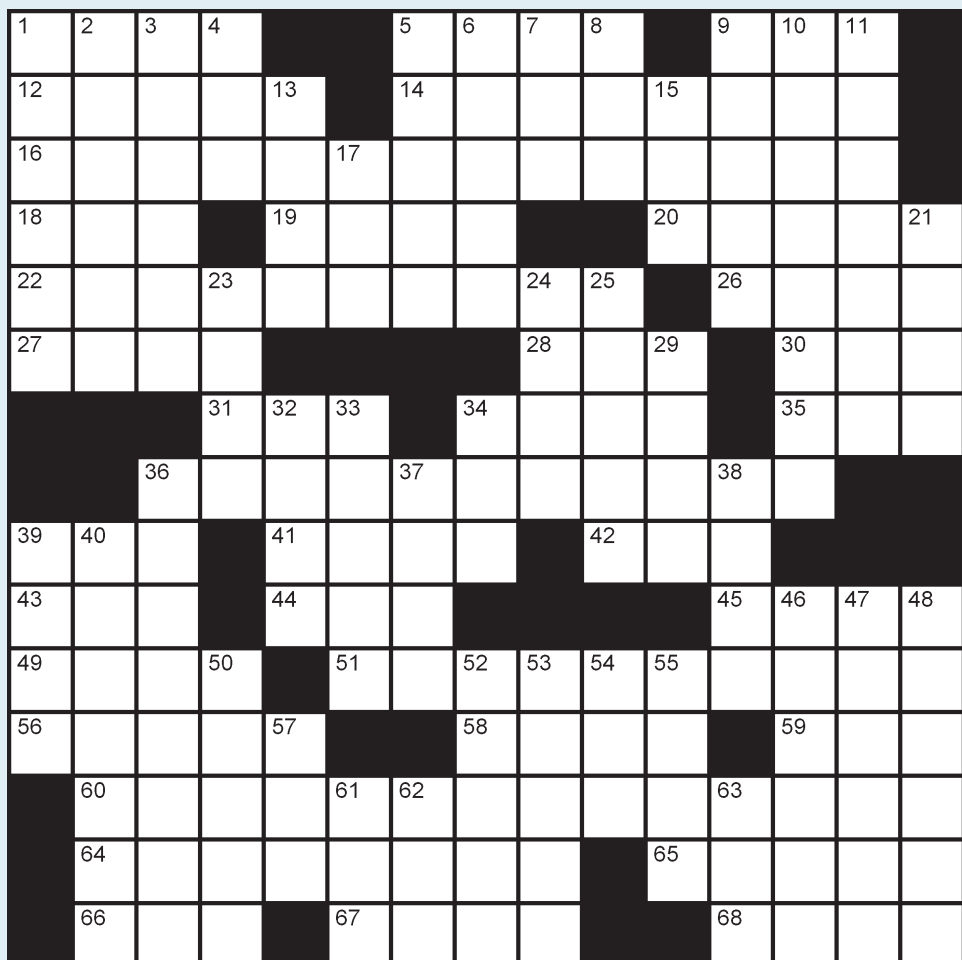


Standard Procedure by Ross Trudeau

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Border
 - 5 Two twos, for one
 - 9 Place for eyebrow threading
 - 12 Beginnings of ideas
 - 14 Academy Award nomination
 - 16 *They're in charge of landscaping
 - 18 "For me ..." online
 - 19 Calorie or kilogram, e.g.
 - 20 Genre to mosh to
 - 22 *They're in charge of routes
 - 26 Move quickly?
 - 27 Secluded valley
 - 28 Clumsy person
 - 30 "The Matrix" character who says "I know Kung Fu"
 - 31 Prefix for "gender"
 - 34 Affliction that rhymes with the affected body part
 - 35 Sound of rebuke
 - 36 *They're in charge of desserts
 - 39 www. spelman.____
 - 41 Must have
 - 42 Words exchanged at an altar
 - 43 Limb attached to a trunk
 - 44 Gossip that's "spilled"
 - 45 "Sacre ____"
 - 49 A.O.C. and Ayanna Pressley, e.g.
 - 51 *They're in charge of syllabi
 - 56 Bread boxes?
 - 58 "Chopped" creation
 - 59 "Let's go, team!"
 - 60 Natural outcome, and something the people in the starred clues' answers attend to
 - 64 "Yeah, I guess"
 - 65 More arid
 - 66 Soccer goal attachment
 - 67 ____ is more
 - 68 Famous loch
- DOWN**
- 1 Messy Halloween prank
 - 2 Skin-related
 - 3 Get into the music
 - 4 Bird that dings prey on
 - 5 Theorize
 - 6 Invite for
 - 7 Diamonds, in slang
 - 8 "The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl" author Issa
 - 9 Contemptuous smile
 - 10 Black cats and blood moons, for some
 - 11 Facebook's primary revenue source
 - 13 Like a bug in a rug
 - 15 Tach reading
 - 17 "I just took a ____ test / Turns out I'm 100% ..." (Lizzo lyric)
 - 21 Style
 - 23 Ancient Peruvian
 - 24 Campus military grp.
 - 25 "Go stop in for a chat!"
 - 29 Chicken dinner?
 - 32 "____ it romantic?"
 - 33 Like a black diamond slope
 - 34 Name hidden in "oopsy daisy"
 - 36 Shooting guard's feint
 - 37 Caboose
 - 38 Watch chains
 - 39 "Folded" parts of a Scottish Fold cat
 - 40 "Not in a million years!"
 - 46 Country singer Morgan
 - 47 Wipes out
 - 48 They might show you to your seat
 - 50 Go after
 - 52 Litter box emanations
 - 53 High-pitched flutes
 - 54 "Exit full screen" key
 - 55 Equipped with footwear
 - 57 Where slop is served
 - 61 Subj. for some aspiring bilinguals
 - 62 Really regret
 - 63 Large coffee vessel

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021 Hunter's Moon



The full moon in Aries -- the sign of the warrior -- is the hunter's moon. Whatever the pursuit, be it for love, food, gold or other, honorable hunting comes with responsibility. The chase and targeting are only the start of the cycle. If favored with a successful hunt, there is much subsequent work to be done in the sharing and use of the spoils.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Satisfaction in a relationship depends on overlooking the shortcomings and fixing attention on what is working beautifully, which will be particularly easy for you to see today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It may not seem like it, but you have room in your life for a new group of people. Dip your toe in. You'll start enjoying yourself straight away and have something unique to contribute.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When honesty seeps uncomfortably into the situation, it means there's something important, healthy and meaningful occurring. A degree of discomfort is necessary to an exciting and interesting life.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are well-aware of the nature of an adrenaline rush. What goes up must come down. Every mood has its opposite, and the pendulum will swing. You're ready for it. The thrill will be worth it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Beware of mesmerizing opportunities. If you have to be hypnotized to do a thing, it's probably not reasonable and likely not good for you either. Act as your own advocate. Seek straightforward arrangements.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). After a long string of making no mistakes, you sense a rebellious spirit revving up to take more risks. You very well may miss the excitement and drama of a good, old-fashioned mess.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What was bad is now good; what was ugly is now beautiful. Arbitrary and interchangeable labels are ultimately meaningless. So don't bother trying to categorize; just accept what is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Do not try to get a zig out of a thing that clearly likes to zag. To learn the nature of things and let it inform your efforts is intelligent, respectful and, ultimately, the most profitable move.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When the pretty words come floating to your ears, it is very tempting to hold onto them as though they were tangible enough to build on. They might be, but you won't know until there are behaviors and facts to back them up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The only one who knows whether someone is good for you is you. Don't listen to those trying to sway your feelings. Your feelings are loyal informants in your employment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Challenge yourself to drop your assumptions about who people are so you can learn who they actually are. Wishing people to be any certain way is the enemy of close, productive relationships.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). One decision will change everything. That decision is entirely yours, but have no fear. There's nothing to get right here, really. Let your curiosity guide you. What do you want to learn?

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 20). There are options no one knows about yet. They cannot see what is possible. This is your cosmic birthday gift -- a broader awareness. You will erase what you think you know. Go in with an open mind and your comprehensive understanding of a subject will open worlds. You will profit in the ways that matter to you. Virgo and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 10, 4, 44 and 27.

Universal SUDOKU

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

			4	5	9		8	
	5	3		7				1
				8		7		
9			3	1				
	4			9				6
				2	4			7
		9		3				
4				6		1	2	
	7		2	4	8			

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

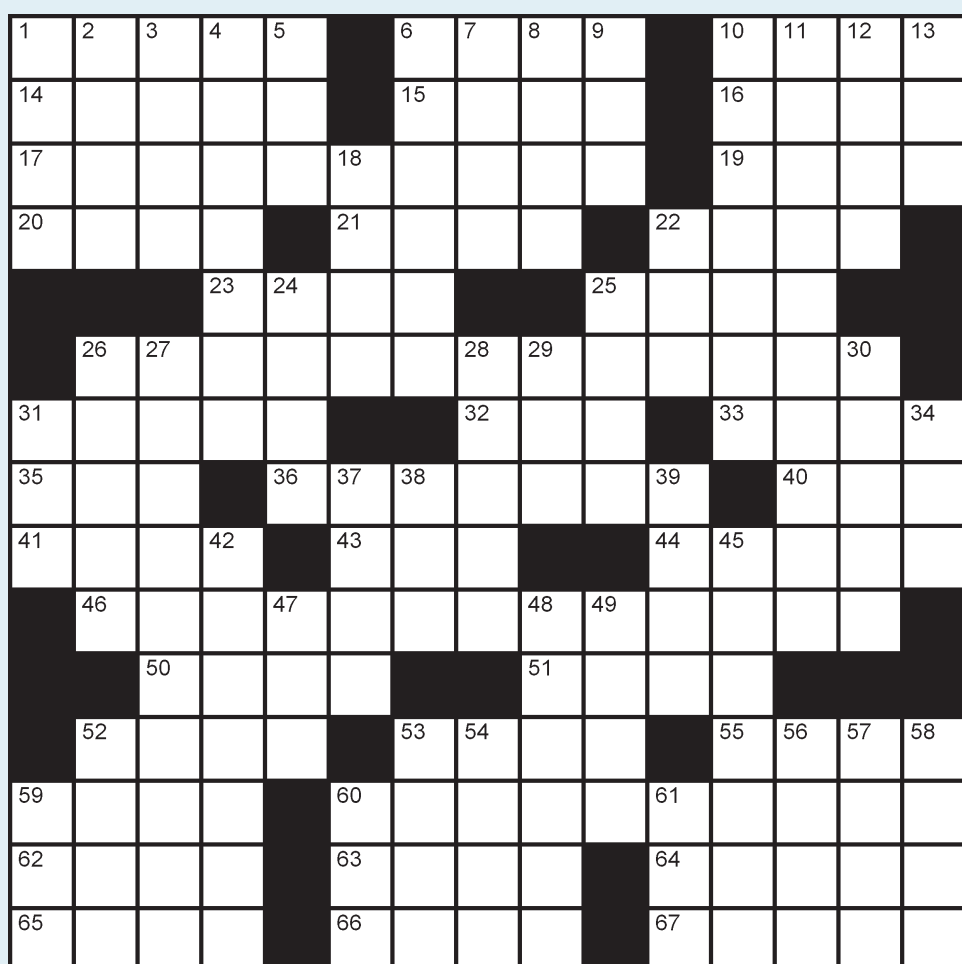


SOLUTIONS

6	3	9	8	4	7	1	7	5
5	2	1	7	9	6	8	3	4
7	4	7	8	1	3	5	6	2
1	7	4	9	1	7	3	6	5
8	1	4	2	7	9	5	3	6
2	9	4	1	6	3	1	6	5
6	9	4	1	8	3	7	5	6
8	5	3	6	7	2	4	9	1
7	1	6	4	5	9	2	8	3

pH Factor by Alan Massengill and Doug Peterson

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Luxury craft
 - 6 Big oil grp.
 - 10 "Just Do It" company
 - 14 Possible reaction to unwanted flowers
 - 15 Temporarily bright star
 - 16 Sign of the future
 - 17 Fantastic '90s card carrier?
 - 19 Zipped and zoomed
 - 20 Actor Rogen
 - 21 "High ____" (classic Western)
 - 22 Way off base, say?: Abbr.
 - 23 "Como ____ usted?"
 - 25 Draws on
 - 26 "Hey, who's pretending to be rocker Liz?"
 - 31 Leather for some jackets
 - 32 Toned
 - 33 'Vette roof option
 - 35 Western neighbor of Ga.
 - 36 "Why are you still bothering me?"
 - 40 Sometimes-hazy brew, briefly
 - 41 They're smart and funny
 - 43 Futbol stadium cry
 - 44 Crude abode
 - 46 Connections at a scam call center?
 - 50 Ad agency award
 - 51 Take it easy
 - 52 Varieties
 - 53 Told, as a yarn
 - 55 Muddy spot
 - 59 Child's play, maybe?
 - 60 Epic sigh of relief?
 - 62 Mortgage adjustment, for short
 - 63 Light snack
 - 64 Do more than apologize
 - 65 Word a sliding runner likes to hear
 - 66 Kyle's bestie on "South Park"
 - 67 Heavily promotes
- DOWN**
- 1 Puppy sounds
 - 2 Tooth or ear malady
 - 3 Have a convo
 - 4 Someone with a short fuse
 - 5 AAA service
 - 6 From another museum, perhaps
 - 7 Water ____ (Olympic sport)
 - 8 Divisible by two
 - 9 One may be feral
 - 10 "Easy peasy!"
 - 11 "Are you sure?" response
 - 12 Backbone of a boat
 - 13 Word before "point," "line" or "zone"
 - 18 Marching insects
 - 22 Firepit residue
 - 24 Meal in a Crock-Pot
 - 25 "I've had it ____ here!"
 - 26 Blooming bulb
 - 27 Annoying feline in comics
 - 28 Frequently
 - 29 Altoids container
 - 30 Lassos
 - 31 Didn't miss?
 - 34 Friend
 - 37 Hostess product similar to a Yodel
 - 38 Famous boxer and trash-talker
 - 39 Expert
 - 42 Dressy neckwear
 - 45 Nearly out of gas
 - 47 Certain sib
 - 48 ____-free restaurant
 - 49 Penny, but not Abbey
 - 52 Assemble-it-yourself furniture brand
 - 53 Executive's apparel
 - 54 Hummus scooper
 - 56 Stack chain
 - 57 Russo of "Thor"
 - 58 Lambs' mothers
 - 59 12th graders: Abbr.
 - 60 NFL signal-callers
 - 61 "That feels wonderful!"

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021 Planets Square Asks: Balance or Passion?



Balance is achievable, and so is exceptional success, but these things cannot be had at once. Balance demands temperance. Exceptionality demands fiery drive. Something must be sacrificed to fuel the flames. Mars in the sign of balance agitates Pluto in Capricorn in such a way as to reveal the nature of the sacrifice.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The gestures and rituals around togetherness will have meaning that lives beyond the implications of the day. It is gracious to take a little of what's being offered to you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A temperate approach will work for you. You would rather get small daily doses of adrenaline than live dramatically, inducing large-scale thrills and adrenaline rushes that can be a challenge to come down from.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The group works best when everyone brings an intangible something -- for instance, an idea, receptivity, a custom, a grateful heart or an infectious enthusiasm.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Excuse yourself from too much thinking. The processing of past lessons gets boring. It's safe to assume you absorbed what you could from it; that's over. What's next?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Though you try to get to a place of "no regrets," if you don't quite make it, you can use whatever you wish you would have done differently to inform your next move.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll excel where others haven't. They got impatient, they gave up too soon or maybe they just couldn't figure it out. Hang in there and believe. Your win will show the way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Sure, the time is always now. But time for what? To inhabit the moment isn't always to act in it. You'll focus yourself thoughtfully, with maturity and strategy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're making sense of something that is difficult for many people to understand. It is too early to declare your findings or share your insights. This requires much more observation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). All snowflakes have the same color and melting point, and yet each one is completely unique. The one who appreciates your distinctive qualities will quickly discover your heart's melting point.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Connection has a cost you feel willing to pay. You are ready to be aware of the other person's struggles, to be curious about their inclinations and to feel somewhat responsible for serving their needs.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Anyone willing to put in the time can have the skill. Things can always be learned by those who know how to learn. Learning how to learn -- or, more specifically, how you learn -- is the key to becoming whoever you want to be.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). While it is possible to learn from the feedback your emotional responses provide, feelings can also be attached to lies, falsehoods and misinformation. Gather emotional data without acting on it. This needs to be tested.

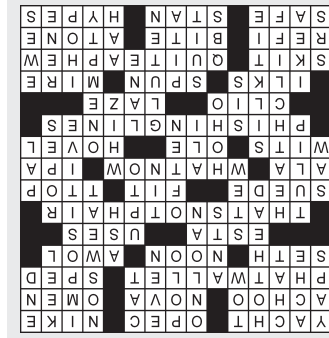
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 21). You'll neatly wrap up a major project, and that's when the real work (and play!) will begin. You'll inspire, coach and facilitate big successes for the ones you care about. In doing so, you'll fulfill your own destiny. There's a mystery to solve at the turn of the year. A relationship of tenderness and vulnerability will heal. Libra and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 36, 4, 48 and 16. Numbers are: 8, 30, 45, 12 and 20.

Universal SUDOKU

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

		3		9	8			
	5	6	7	4	1			2
	1			6				7
				5				8
				7				
1	2			8				
	4			2				9
	9		8	1	4	2	5	
			9	3		7		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

4	7	8	4	1	9	6	1	9	2	6	3	7
9	5	6	7	8	1	4	2	5	6	3	8	9
1	6	1	7	3	9	1	5	4	8	6	2	7
7	4	7	9	8	3	5	3	5	3	2	3	2
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6	5	6	7	4	1	8	2	3	9	2	8	3
4	7	8	4	1	9	6	1	9	2	6	3	7