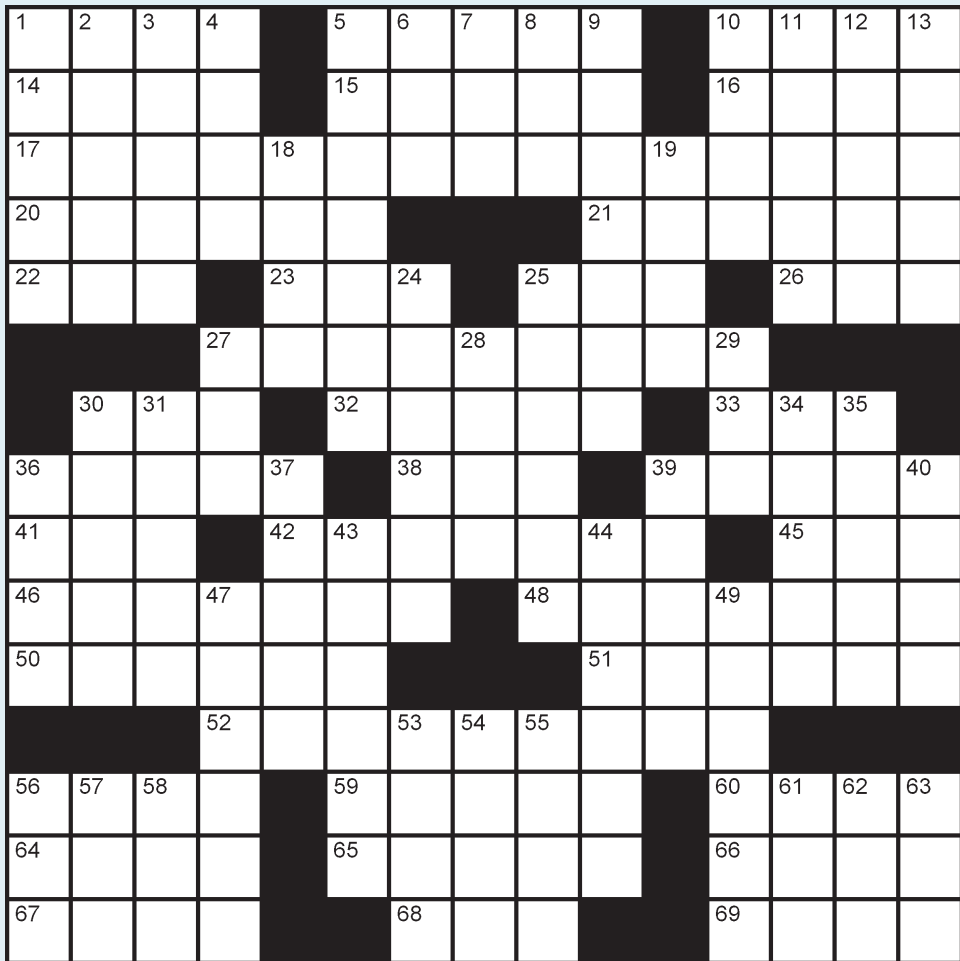


From A to B by Christina Iverson

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Alligator ____ (avocado)
 - 5 Trité
 - 10 What goes sideways?
 - 14 Instrument described as "an ill wind"
 - 15 Justice Samuel
 - 16 Prince Charles, e.g.
 - 17 Cheap beer to sip while golfing?
 - 20 Cared for a friend's cat, say
 - 21 Harris who made history in 2020
 - 22 Mathematician Lovelace
 - 23 Issa of "Insecure"
 - 25 "That hurt!"
 - 26 Name within "Benedict"
 - 27 Chant from a crowd that hates Thunderbolt ports?
 - 30 "Frontline" channel
 - 32 Wintry mix
 - 33 What may require a 20-sided die: Abbr.
 - 36 Was on TV
 - 38 Above, to a bard
 - 39 Diet that avoids processed food
 - 41 Confucian path
 - 42 Figurine of a "notorious" justice?
 - 45 Santa ____, California
 - 46 Oddity
 - 48 Slob's opposite
 - 50 Part of a precarious chain
 - 51 Hiss sources
 - 52 Utensils for detangling spaghetti?
 - 56 Dragon's burst of smoke
 - 59 New Zealand native
 - 60 Toy for a windy day
 - 64 Great Plains people
 - 65 Flashiness, informally
 - 66 Bus. class
 - 67 Special brownie ingredient
 - 68 Old Pontiac
 - 69 Like pink hair
- DOWN**
- 1 Daddy's partner, maybe
 - 2 Went out like the tide
 - 3 Major artery
 - 4 Shot callers
 - 5 They're settled when they're picked up
 - 6 ____-country (music genre)
 - 7 Dr. Fauci's agcy.
 - 8 Breakfasted or lunched
 - 9 Strand, as one's babysitter
 - 10 Buddy
 - 11 Was on TV again
 - 12 Lit path on a train
 - 13 "Daily" food in a prayer
 - 18 Rowing tools
 - 19 Uncultured people
 - 24 Memorial speech
 - 25 "A Midsummer Night's Dream" king
 - 27 One of many for a Q-tip
 - 28 Pea, for a pea plant
 - 29 ThirdLove undergarment
 - 30 Upright or grand
 - 31 Ride for a Quidditch player
 - 34 Endurance exercise for abs
 - 35 Wish granter
 - 36 Ever so slightly
 - 37 Liquid-Plumr alternative
 - 39 Morning-after pill brand
 - 40 Acorn makers
 - 43 Word that means "flowers," with or without "ss" at its center
 - 44 Musical set in France, to fans
 - 47 Less than pleased
 - 49 Assigned work to
 - 53 "Rats!"
 - 54 Cover in chocolate, maybe
 - 55 Ricelike pasta
 - 56 "Bam!"
 - 57 Colorado native
 - 58 Enemy
 - 61 Slick, as a road
 - 62 One has a nail
 - 63 Apt word for this slot

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2021 Cosmic Kiss to Resolutions



Any New Year's resolutions made today will be kissed by the excellent omen of a Mercury and Venus conjunction. This practical alliance in Capricorn illuminates our next power moves and anoints them with an extra push of auspicious awareness. The focus is on our routines. Making a practice of what we love to do can change our whole world.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Though it's fun to be seduced, whether it's a seduction to get you to buy a product, join a group or be personally enticed, you're no easy mark. You want the truth more than the seduction.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Believe it or not, people are paying attention to you. This is no time to misjudge your own capabilities, underestimate your strength or be clueless as to the charisma you wield.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Ask yourself why you're holding on to something. Is it because you're afraid of what will change if you let go? If fear is the only thing holding you back, it's a sign to get brave and make the change.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Being attached to the appearance of things could get in the way of knowing the real essence of them. To know what things are, forget what they are supposed to be.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Even though the way a person acts is a reflection of who they are, you still get the strange feeling that you are someone other than the person enacting your behavior. You are bigger than even your best choices.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's a time to muscle your way through. When you feel depleted, don't back down. Instead, make a push. You'll get a second wind and accomplish something remarkable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). How can you make it easy for people to do the thing you really want them to do? This is the secret to success that can be applied across many areas of life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're happy to be the witness, not the judge. You may be asked to give a verdict innocuous opinions could have an unintended influence.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Emotions could cause you to improperly or unhelpfully magnify or minimize the impact of things. Make things as big or small in your mind as you need them to be. Find the scale that is easy for you to manage.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Creativity isn't something you acquire; it's something you've had all along. Like Dorothy's ruby slippers, you only need to know how to access the magic to be transported.

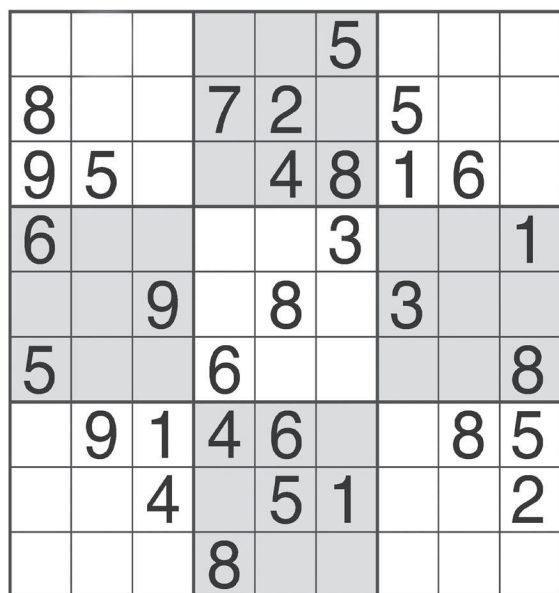
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're appropriately mild-mannered for most of the day. But there will be brief moments when intense emotions will help you go at your purpose harder, so don't be afraid to feel your feelings.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can never have enough friends and connections. You don't even have to try to meet new people; it just happens naturally as you go about your day.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 29). The prevailing sense is one of belonging and purpose. You are more certain than ever about what you have to offer and will be empowered by your own generosity. A bold and righteous move improves finances for yourself and many. Friends send you in adventurous directions, and you'll return with gold. Gemini and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 22, 15, 40 and 19.

Universal SUDOKU

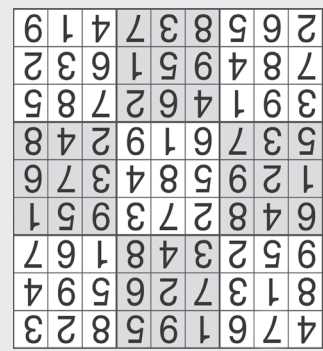
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

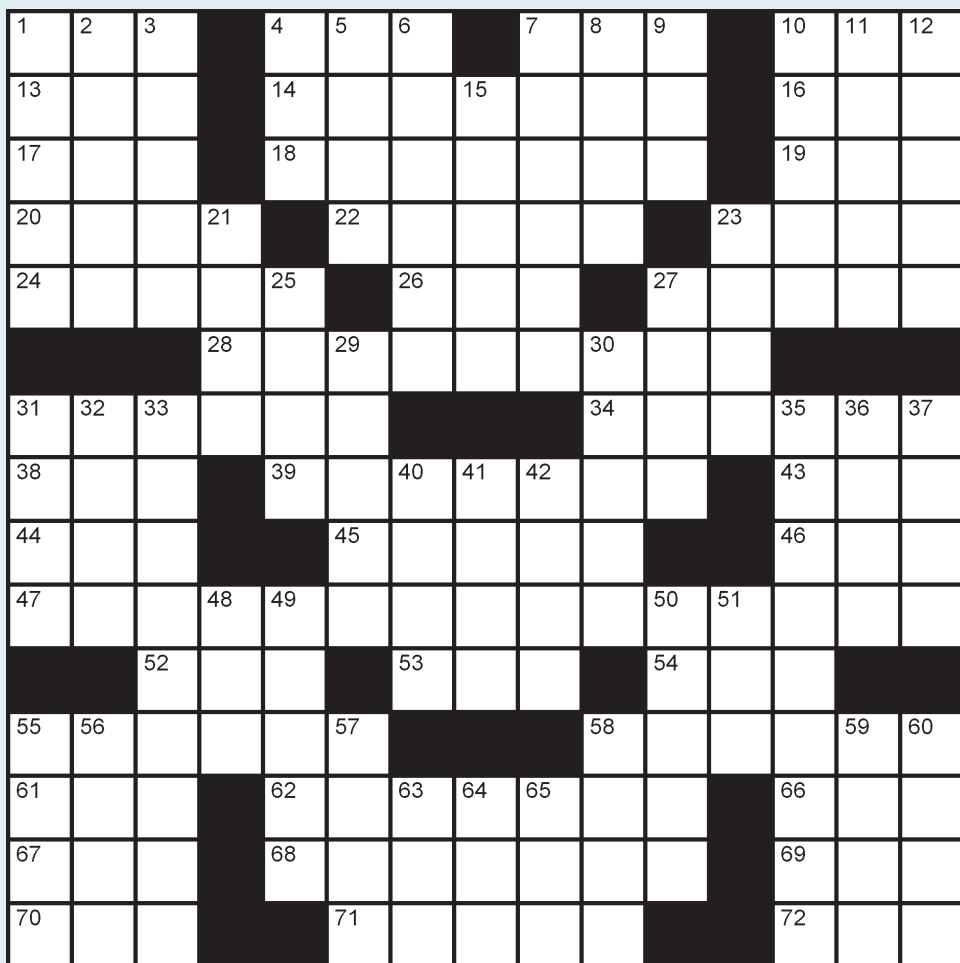


SOLUTIONS



Space Travel by Paul Coulter

Universal Crossword edited by Amanda Rafkin



- ACROSS**
- 1 Friend, in French
 - 4 Flow out
 - 7 Her partner, sometimes?
 - 10 Disguised form for a vampire
 - 13 Atrocious
 - 14 Ballet footwear
 - 16 Tavern order
 - 17 Best club in Vegas, often?
 - 18 *Resolving a Mafia dispute, e.g.?
 - 19 Martini ingredient
 - 20 Bogus
 - 22 Got down to pray, perhaps
 - 23 Midterm, e.g.
 - 24 Polynesian dances
 - 26 Angsty genre
 - 27 Alternatives to suspenders
 - 28 *Which campfire treat are you referring to?
 - 31 Composer ____ Lloyd Webber
 - 34 Says "Skip my turn this round!"
 - 38 Feathery neckwear
 - 39 Snuggly kitties
 - 43 Shack
 - 44 "Have some food!"
 - 45 Feature of italic text
 - 46 What might follow you?
 - 47 *Familiar TV program?
 - 52 Pioneering astronaut Jemison
 - 53 Org. with a 3-1-1 rule
 - 54 Pot-bellied pet, perhaps
 - 55 Refractors of light
 - 58 Not abundant
 - 61 Long, long time
 - 62 *Lineup of computer support whizzes?
 - 66 Charged particle
 - 67 Mimic
 - 68 Establishment serving rice wines
 - 69 ____ of the land
 - 70 Color of a blood moon
 - 71 African country where the Guerewol is celebrated
 - 72 Letters before an alias
- DOWN**
- 1 Embarrass
 - 2 ____ Picchu
 - 3 Best-possible
 - 4 "Wheels up" guess: Abbr.
 - 5 Reserve, like a flight
 - 6 "Pride and Prejudice" surname
 - 7 Hello or goodbye, in Hebrew
 - 8 Emcee
 - 9 "OMG a cockroach!"
 - 10 Food with an everything variety
 - 11 Top-tier celebrities
 - 12 They might be pitched in the backyard
 - 15 Cherry parts that might be tied with a tongue
 - 21 Bryn ____
 - 23 Golfer's props
 - 25 Poet Silverstein
 - 27 Bikini tops
 - 29 Flooded
 - 30 Decide you will
 - 31 Drive a getaway car, e.g.
 - 32 Galvin of "The Good Doctor"
 - 33 Dug for digital insights
 - 35 Mythical Himalayan utopia
 - 36 French bread?
 - 37 Gamjatang or goulash, e.g.
 - 40 Story line
 - 41 Crow sounds
 - 42 Taylor-Joy of "Last Night in Soho"
 - 48 Aides for profs
 - 49 18-wheelers
 - 50 Keep a stiff ____ lip
 - 51 Seoul-based Soul maker
 - 55 Fruit in a holiday basket
 - 56 Tug-of-war need
 - 57 Jazz saxophonist Getz
 - 58 One of 50 on the U.S. flag
 - 59 Take a good, long bath
 - 60 "Only Time" singer
 - 63 Tackle a bunny hill
 - 64 Table part
 - 65 16th prez

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2021 Capricorn Collective



Forming a collective in Capricorn, Mercury, Venus and Pluto push powerfully through the final days of the year. Many will have astounding clarity about their path and purpose for 2022. Instead of envisioning the prize, it's the work itself we can see -- the practice hours necessary, the tenacity we'll need. We can do hard things.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A loved one will be there to provide what you need when you need it. It's moments like these that make you realize you've made some good choices about who belongs in your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You see what you want, and you go for it. Things heat up quickly. The intensity fuels fast action. Parts of life that were lacking color will get a shot of excitement and glamour.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Anyone can see what's going wrong. You have an excellent eye for what's going right. Share your upbeat observations. Your optimism will have far-reaching repercussions.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The prize should go to the one who most deserves it, but it won't work that way. More likely, the prize will go to the one who thinks to ask for it. So be bold. Pose the question.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A relationship improves. It's like you're coasting along together on good roads in fair weather. These easy, harmonious vibes just might be the new normal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Research the people you would like to know. As you learn more about your heroes, you align yourself with them. You'll find out that you're already alike in more ways than you would have guessed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Just because you started out one way doesn't mean you can't start over with different rules. Consider changing the game or finding new terms for an agreement.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're excellent at prioritizing. You make the important things sacred. Two things that don't always fit nicely together will suddenly blend better, for instance work and leisure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Self-parenting will be necessary. Tell yourself that you can "play" after you've "finished your homework." You'll be amenable to your own rules and requests.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Let your inward confidence show in your style of speaking. If you are too self-effacing, your credibility may be called into question. Talk with certainty and others will be certain of you as well.

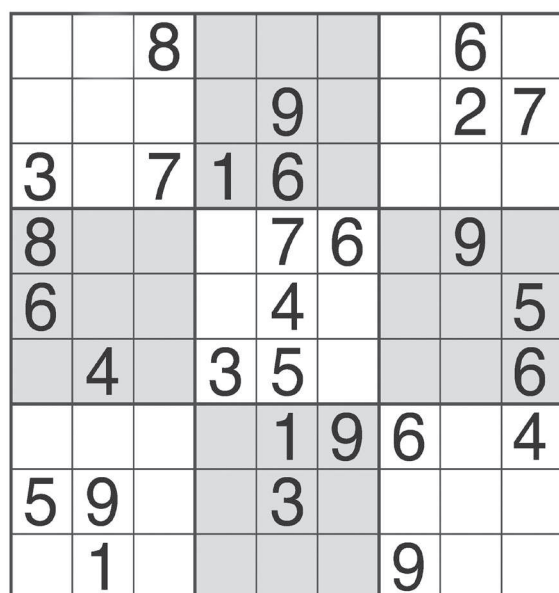
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your creativity and intelligence will stretch into new realms. You'll apply what you learned in one area of life to a completely different subject with great success.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You could use a mentor. Actually, one is not enough. Show people your ideas. You'll love who's receptive to your charm, who can spot your talent and show you your own rich potential.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 30). While there are some mighty influential and successful people around you, you wouldn't dream of adopting anything less than a completely customized approach to life. You'll make your own rules. "The more the merrier" will be a theme and you'll attract a bustling scene. There's money to be made in a crowd. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 25, 31, 17 and 44.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

