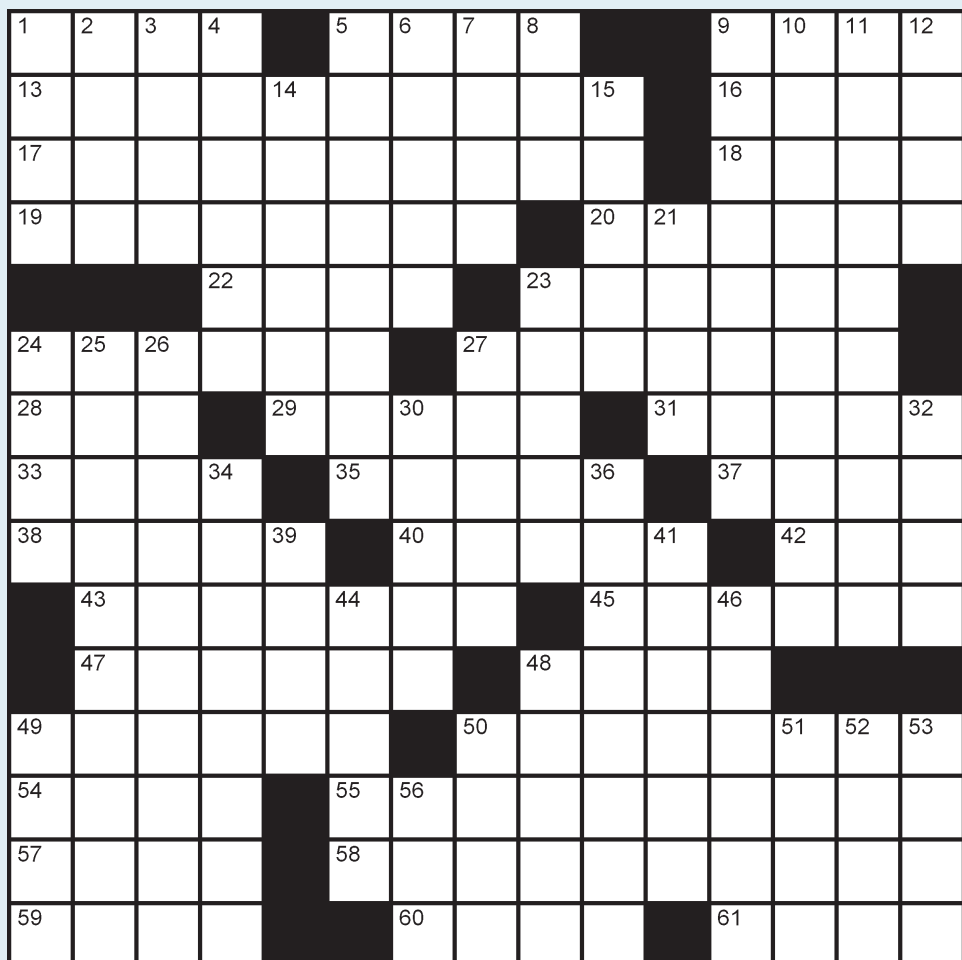


Universal Freestyle by Billy and Molly Bratton

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS
1 Break between notes
5 Features of feet
9 'Como estas?' response, often
13 The fossil Big Al, once
16 Indie pop singer Parks
17 Hypothetical body beyond Pluto
18 Grain tower
19 Audio player
20 Relates (with)
22 Just slightly cooked
23 Big cheese
24 'That's false!'
27 Whip up
28 Librarian's rebuke
29 L.A.'s region
31 Plucked instruments
33 Usher in?
35 \_\_\_ and true
37 Shade darker than turquoise
38 Passion
40 Map close-up
42 The record-holding cat
43 Sign the back of
45 Made embarrassed
47 Prepare, as a factory
48 Orange skin
49 Con artists' accomplices
50 Their tails have scales
54 Mani's partner
55 Online blurb that may include your pronouns
57 He was trapped in a net with Aphrodite
58 Where to 'find' the McCrepe
59 \_\_\_ lover's pizza
60 Necklace bit
61 Recipe division
DOWN
1 Laser-focused
2 Spanish for 'she'
3 High-five noise
4 Exfoliation products
5 Spud nugget
6 Eighth of a cup
7 'Red' Viking
8 Early riser?
9 Layer under nail polish
10 Liqueur invented in Dublin
11 Actor who appeared on Time's cover with the quote 'I'm fully who I am'
12 Apt time given this clue's number
14 Family cars, often
15 Placed atop
21 Twelfth of a foot
23 Young adult novel in which campers dig
24 Rae of 'The Hate U Give'
25 'You'll be OK'
26 'That's news to me!'
27 Michael of 'The Muppet Christmas Carol'
30 Like a good apple
32 Snow day transport
34 One lets you earn checks for doing chores
36 Left in the lurch
39 It's called in class
41 NYC museum in 'Ocean's Eight'
44 Oxidizes
46 Security devices
48 Jordanian city named one of the New Seven Wonders of the World
49 Flood with messages
50 Trackpad alternatives
51 'A likely story!'
52 Have a nice meal
53 Miso dish
56 Caught in a \_\_\_ of lies

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022 Lunar Squares



The fresh Aries moon forms three squares: First, to Venus, then the sun and finally, to Pluto. Many believe in their rightness. Those who leave room for the possibility that they are wrong will have an edge. The humble can see opportunities that are invisible to the confident. Openness is necessary to improve. Caution avoids disaster.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are a warrior. It doesn't mean you always want to fight the opposition. It means that your actions are imbued with purpose. The purpose today will be to assist in keeping things orderly and peaceful.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Rare entities are sought after; common ones are overlooked. When everyone wants it but few can have it, the value goes up. To make something more precious, you will limit access to it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your relationship with a certain person is moving with the times, a sign that there's real potential here. The better you know and trust each other, the more opportunity there will be to conquer the world as a team.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's nothing wrong with mediocrity, yet you're not interested. You'll pick what you're already good at and work as hard as it takes to make yourself remarkable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). An uncomfortable feeling comes back. In the past, you didn't know how to manage it -- maybe you still don't -- but you're willing to try to take it on anyway.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). On one hand, you hate to waste. On the other hand, in today's case, (SET ITAL)not(END ITAL) wasting will take a great deal of preparation (which can feel to you like waste). It's a matter of choosing your battle.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your improvements will come by way of subtraction. Getting rid of things makes room. It works in love, too, as relationships could use more space. Back off and wait for the wonder that will rush to fill in the blank.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Emotions are among the day's most valuable gifts. Feelings lead you places. Lovely ones send you to beautiful vistas. Raw and painful ones are shortcuts to an improved version of yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Occasionally, your mind adopts an unhelpful strategy (for instance, obsessing about a situation that you can't control). Tell your mind to figure out the part of the scenario you can do something about.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You won't take pity on a single soul, especially not on yourself, because you wholeheartedly believe in each person's ability to rise to the occasion and do what's necessary.

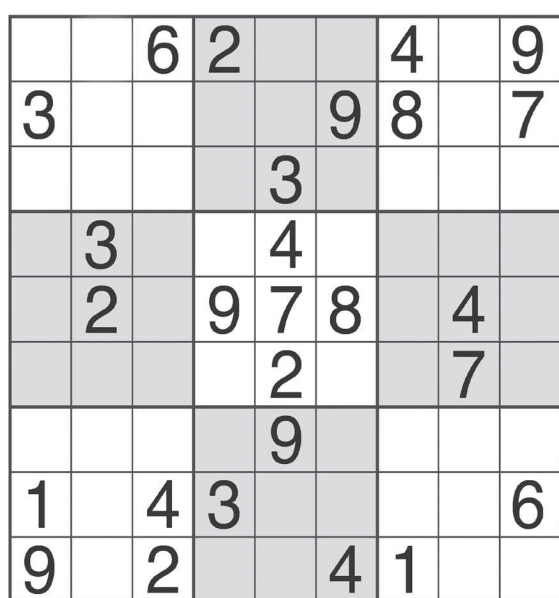
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Circumstances are changing quickly. It seems like you just made the plan and it already needs alterations. That you're able to adjust easily is a skill on its own -- one you'll be using often in the weeks to come.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You have a gift for putting yourself in the other person's place and really understanding what it's like to be there. You'll sort out a conflict and save the day.

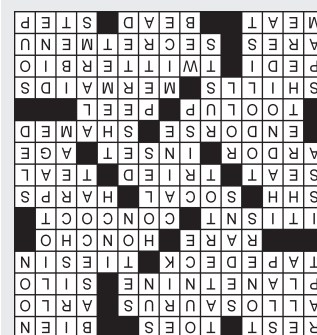
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 9). A year sprinkled in wonders! Your optimism and curiosity will attract fascinating people. Friends and teachers will help you nail an achievement. You'll keep building relationships. The old alliances will be a perfect match for new opportunities. A May investment will be part of your legacy. Taurus and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 3, 33, 18 and 49.

Universal SUDOKU

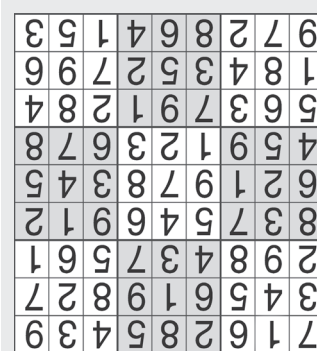
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

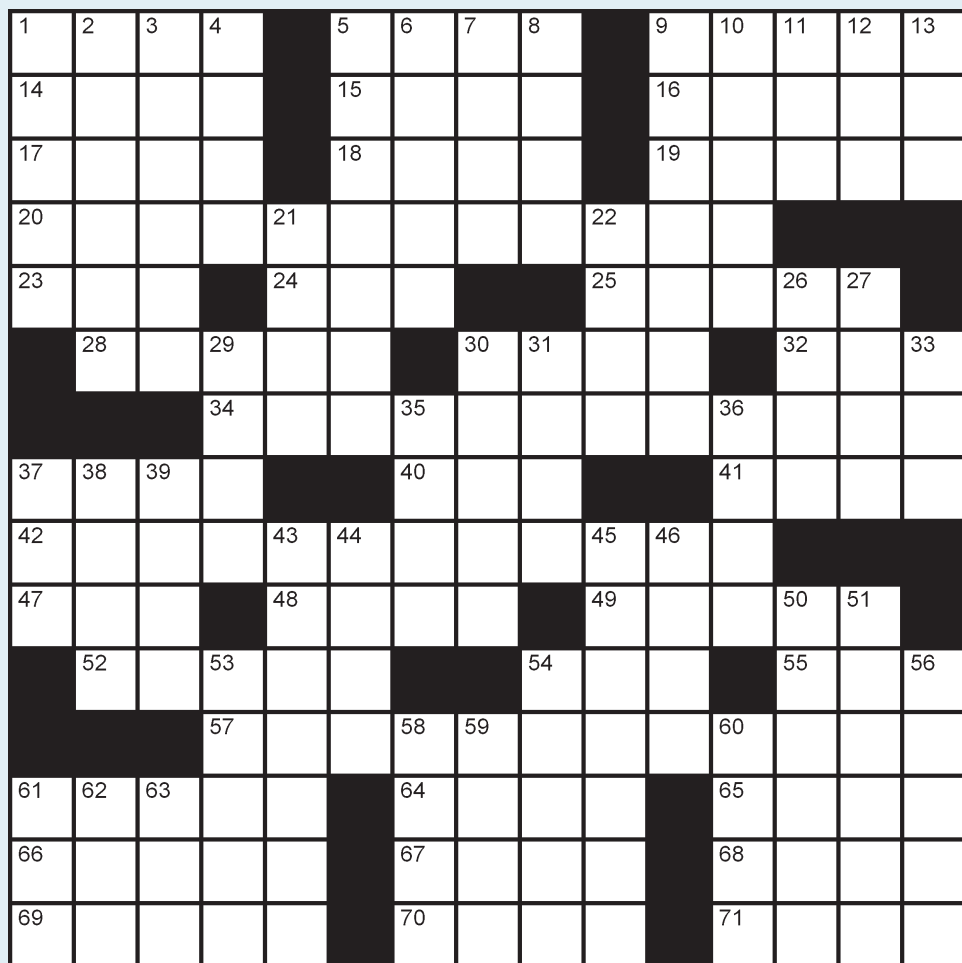


SOLUTIONS



Barbershop Quartet by Rebecca Goldstein

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS
1 Too \_\_\_ cooks
5 Bones with teeth
9 Lesser-known celebs
14 Woodwind related to the heckelphone
15 Postmortem bio
16 One of a dozen in a box, often
17 Musical ending
18 Unavailable
19 Roll from Poland
20 Colloquial hangover remedy
23 Circle segment
24 Owns
25 Snatching sound
28 Home to the Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum
30 Nickname hidden in 'archetype'
32 Short \_\_\_ sweet
34 Rearview mirror dangler, perhaps
37 Blotch
40 'You've got mail' ISP
41 Accomplishes
42 Machine learning's field, informally
47 Blasting material
48 Jeopardize
49 They sniff
52 Classic camera brand
54 One in a line at the airport
55 Tantrum
57 'That's your opinion'
61 Words to learn for the SAT
64 'Floor Is \_\_\_' (Netflix show)
65 Rhyme for 'snooze,' in an idiom
66 Dried plum
67 PC maker
68 Ceramics and cartooning
69 Completely full
70 Request for seconds
71 Mom-and-pop orgs.?
DOWN
1 Chocolatey cafe order
2 Alphabetically first preposition, per most lists
3 'Can't do it'
4 Once around the sun
5 Employment expo
6 Is up against?
7 Deep desire
8 Reason to see the ophthalmologist
9 Stand in the corner of a dance party?
10 Mario's brother
11 403(b) alternative
12 Only three-letter scale note
13 Attempt
21 'Fancy meeting you here'
22 Colorants
26 Prefix smaller than micro-
27 Joint below the hip
29 Like those seated after the opening number
30 Elbow crease
31 Place unlikely to freeze over
33 OB-GYNs, e.g.
35 Cheering people
36 'Slow Churned'
37 Plopped down
38 Flamingo's color
39 Bart and Lisa's bus driver
43 Kvetched
44 Steep increase
45 How some pranks are pulled
46 Desert in northern China
50 Attempt
51 Snooze, in El Salvador
53 Designer von Furstenberg
54 Magazine's outer page
56 Ringlet
58 Glitzy rock genre
59 Folded food
60 'Door' in a door
61 Kamala Harris and others: Abbr.
62 'Your Song' singer Rita
63 Salon job depicted by the starts of 20-, 34-, 42- and 57-Across?

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022 Cosmic Mentorship



Not every discipline is right for every person. Cultivating the ones that are a good fit to the most helpful degree is an art. The Martian angle to Neptune that's moving into tomorrow's squared aspect is a kind of cosmic mentor, helping us find the right thing to get better at. The pursuits that are good for us are thrilling to devote to.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When you recognize others for their achievements, you fulfill a profound and universal need so primal that many do not even realize they have it: the need to feel important and respected.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Humor is revealing. Joking gives away the truth of the situation. You'll laugh with friends and be gentle with the humorless. Maybe they are protecting a part of themselves.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Some say the human brain processes one emotion at a time, but you'll challenge the notion. The duality of your sign engenders complexity. You'll find yourself taking in all sides of a bittersweet or tragicomic circumstance.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Someone will play the comparison game with you. You're good at this one. One of your best tactics is to be very impressed by your opponent's play and let them have all the glory.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The situation is reminiscent of the fable about the ant and grasshopper. You're the ant, busily storing away grain even when you have plenty. When the grasshoppers laugh, you'll pity their future selves.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Who will come to the party? Who will participate in your plans? Do they really like you? Yes on all accounts. You don't even have to try hard. They'll be swept into your natural enthusiasm.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Sharing what matters to you brings gifts too numerous and subtle to describe. Your arguments get better, and your knowledge deepens as you listen up. All thrive with the discussion going strong.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). As uncomfortable as it can be living with an outspoken inner critic, there are benefits, too. Without this voice in your head, you wouldn't be the profound thinker and industrious individual you are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Those who are all over the map are as lost as the mapless. Get a quick overview and then home in on one thing. Believe in it and stick to it until you arrive.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If support from well-meaning people feels like pressure instead of motivation toward the goal, you'll question it. Honor your instinct on the matter. You feel as you do for a reason.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). To fully appreciate what you have and use it to your best advantage is the greatest win. Once you maximize your existing resources, new ones will become available.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You need space in your schedule to do important things, such as nothing at all. You repair and restore yourself in the breaks. Consider making fewer commitments. Your future self will thank you.

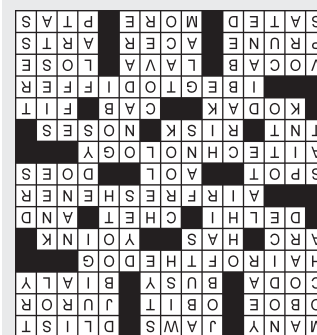
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 10). Your dreams are possible. It's a little scary, but you'll charge forward. No excuses. No quitting. You'll change something about your habits and thinking that will seal you to your work with a new spirit of devotion. Finances perk up with solid, interesting work. You'll be pursued by employers and love interests. Sagittarius and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 44, 38, 12 and 6.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

