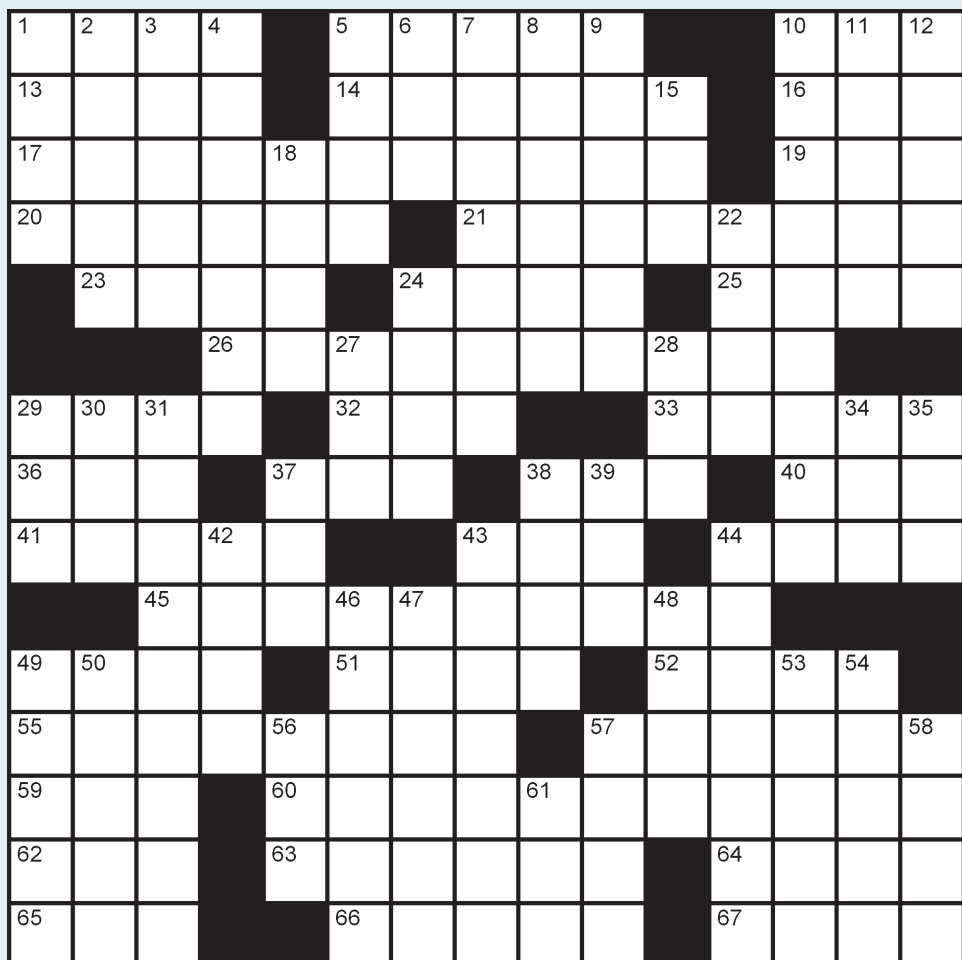


Say Cheese! by Carly Schuna

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Good or bad sign
 - 5 Remnant at a tree farm
 - 10 Amt. of sugar for coffee, maybe
 - 13 It wasn't built in a day
 - 14 Stately homes
 - 16 Guess on an ORD board
 - 17 Promotional image?
 - 19 Mess up
 - 20 Medium-sized sofa
 - 21 Dry red wine
 - 23 Bambi, for one
 - 24 Part of the lake acronym HOMES
 - 25 Award such as Best Female Athlete
 - 26 Spicy image?
 - 29 Icy mass
 - 32 Tool with teeth
 - 33 Put up, as a building
 - 36 Purpose
 - 37 It's sometimes called a napkin
 - 38 Devoured
 - 40 Number that birthday candles represent
 - 41 Earth's environment?
 - 43 Goal
 - 44 The body's biggest organ
 - 45 Blown-up image?
 - 49 Fancy German autos
 - 51 Mont Blanc's range
 - 52 Verbal exam
 - 55 "Check out this trick I can do!"
 - 57 "Pong" consoles
 - 59 What a listener "lends"
 - 60 Close race's ending, or a hint to 17-, 26- and 45-Across
 - 62 "Black Jeopardy!" show, for short
 - 63 More unsettling
 - 64 Entryway with a latch
 - 65 Glum
 - 66 Old-style yet cool
 - 67 Idina voices her in "Frozen"
- DOWN**
- 1 Spheres
 - 2 Communicated like a cow
 - 3 Ham it up
 - 4 Rainy-day fund
 - 5 "Peter Pan" boatswain
 - 6 Paving substance
 - 7 Remove, as a lightbulb
 - 8 Angora goat's coat
 - 9 Delves (into)
 - 10 Certain Gen-Z jargon
 - 11 Throat ailment, informally
 - 12 Luau or rave
 - 15 Sault ___ Marie
 - 18 Hatcher of "Desperate Housewives"
 - 22 Trunk's position, on many cars
 - 24 Old-fashioned "Oh, my!"
 - 27 Org. that provides signals intelligence
 - 28 Previously known as
 - 29 Clear tables
 - 30 "Sixth sense": Abbr.
 - 31 Longtime MTV show about young adults in a new city, with "The"
 - 34 Movie FX
 - 35 Hang ___ (do a surfing stunt)
 - 37 For each
 - 38 Broadcasts
 - 39 Texter's "I really didn't need to know that"
 - 42 Wine barrel
 - 43 "Bon ___!" ("Dig in!")
 - 44 Weird
 - 46 Congregate
 - 47 Crime novelist Leonard
 - 48 "It isn't me!"
 - 49 Sanctify
 - 50 Disney film starring The Rock
 - 53 Plain font
 - 54 Submissions to Santa
 - 56 Gorilla or gibbon
 - 57 Natural hairdo
 - 58 Kind of butter in lotions
 - 61 Across, in a "Jingle Bells" lyric

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022 Countdown to Mercury Retrograde



The need to impress people is typically not a pleasant feeling but it's a good sign. The angst comes when we're on the precipice of something. In these days before Mercury goes retrograde, try to put yourself in the company of people you can learn from (i.e., the ones who make you feel a little nervous and inadequate).

ARIES (March 21-April 19). No matter how great you are at what you do, you can always improve. Some are discouraged by this idea, but not you. You'll jump at the chance to develop your talents, even when it means humbling yourself to follow instructions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll meet people who share your values yet do things differently. This meeting will have you considering new alternatives, especially having to do with lifestyle.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The job you do and how good you are at it definitely matters. It should be noted, however, that the perceptions around this will matter just as much, if not more. Make believers out of people and they'll keep coming back.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There will be a temptation to say too much or relate with too much familiarity. Professionalism is the required quality for success in today's deal. Greater social awareness will set you apart from the amateurs.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Before you begin the hustle, run your plans through the projector of your mind and see yourself handling the day like a boss. Envisioning successful outcomes helps you see what you need to do to set them up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll have something in common with game show contestants today as you experience a situation in which everything seems to ride on a moment. You'll shine in that moment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You get a funny feeling around certain people. You sense there is more to them than they want you to know, which makes you both curious and cautious.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Lie detectors are designed on the premise that dishonesty causes bodily stress. In some ways, honesty is easier. In other ways, it's harder. There's a rule in place that's keeping people from telling the truth.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When you don't concern yourself with matters over which you have no influence, something interesting happens. The simplicity conserves your energy. Your power grows, and so does your circle of influence.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you get serious, they go for the laugh. When you kid around, they get stern. It would seem you're on different pages, but you're really balancing each other from two columns of the same page.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You feel obligated but it's not clear whether you really are. Find out what other people are doing. Do you feel it's necessary to do more than others do? And if so, why?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll learn faster when you're not worried about having to get things right the first time. Don't force it. Just show up with an open mind and keep coming back. You'll absorb when you need. Believe it.

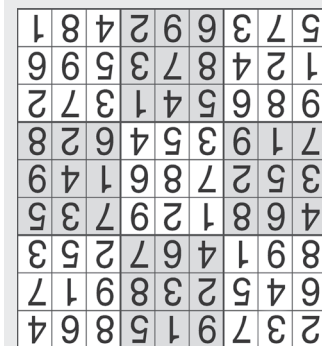
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 12). You take on interesting challenges, get stronger and become more skilled, too. As a result, your financial and social status will climb. Even so, this is not what makes you happiest this year. The source of your good feelings will be what you can give others. The more you give, the more you'll have to give. Libra and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 33, 37, 50 and 2.

Universal SUDOKU

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

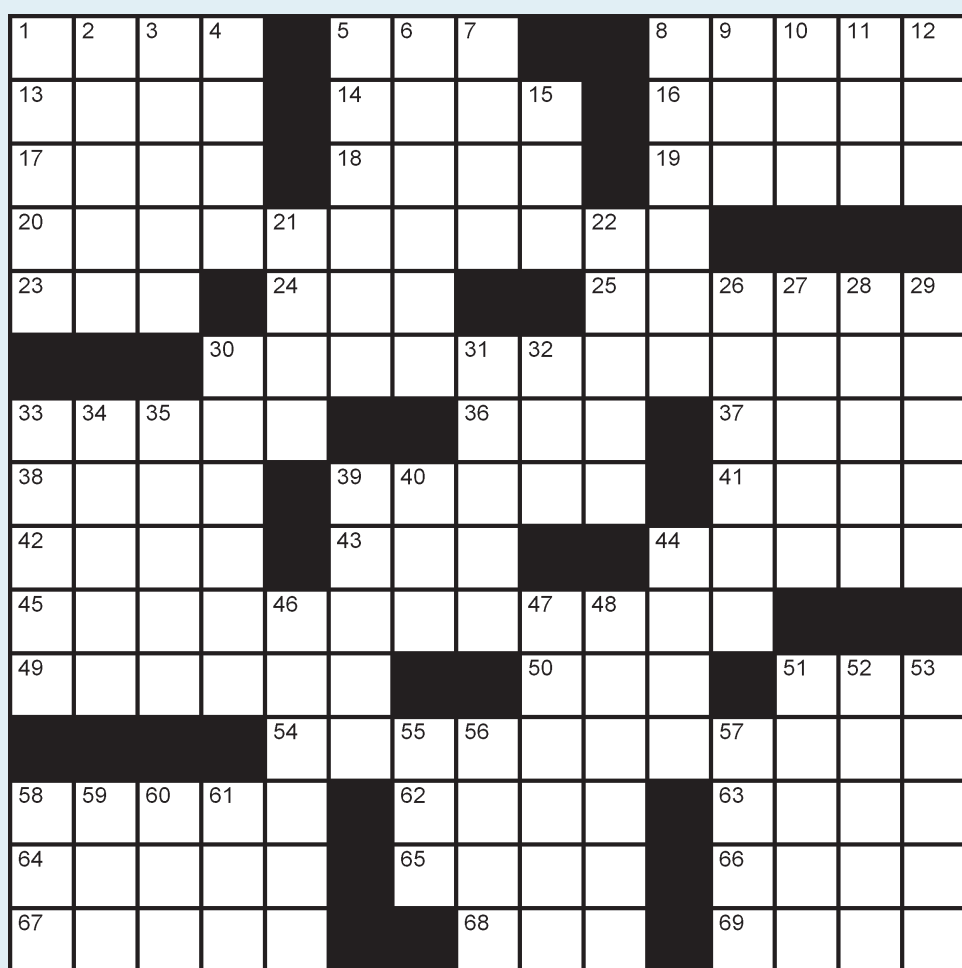


SOLUTIONS



Putting on a Front by Jon Pennington

Universal Crossword edited by Amanda Rafkin



- ACROSS**
- 1 Pear part
 - 5 Chiding syllable
 - 8 Matted clumps of hair
 - 13 ___ nuts (pesto ingredient)
 - 14 Exclude
 - 16 The ___ (customer's typical order)
 - 17 Merit
 - 18 Drag queen in "Kinky Boots"
 - 19 Mary Poppins, e.g.
 - 20 Near Batman's sidekick?
 - 23 Took off
 - 24 What do the pros say?
 - 25 Made a cozy little home
 - 30 Stockpile some yogurt starter?
 - 33 "Count" who composed "One O'Clock Jump"
 - 36 "Affirmative!"
 - 37 People with an annual Sun Dance
 - 38 Cheese that's made backward?
 - 39 Actress Dandridge
 - 41 Quick kiss
 - 42 Some body art, informally
 - 43 "Midsommar" director Aster
 - 44 Maya Angelou and Mary Oliver, e.g.
 - 45 Person playing marbles, often?
 - 49 Madame, in Spain
 - 50 Jump like a hare
 - 51 School fundraising grp.
 - 54 Anticipate the latest charts?
 - 58 Bulldozes
 - 62 "Enough stalling!"
 - 63 Isn't another way?
 - 64 JPEG or PNG file, e.g.
 - 65 Part of YOLO
 - 66 Taunt
 - 67 "Good heavens!"
 - 68 Genre related to reggae
 - 69 Concerning
- DOWN**
- 1 Pickle piece
 - 2 Pageant headwear
 - 3 2001 scandal company
 - 4 Restaurant list that might be accessed with a QR code
 - 5 "I knew I was right!"
 - 6 Campfire treats
 - 7 Unit of weight, for short
 - 8 Escape route in "The Great Escape"
 - 9 Allyson Felix's Olympic team
 - 10 "Sounds like a great time!"
 - 11 Pale brown color
 - 12 Cunning
 - 15 Soda can feature
 - 21 Word on a "Hello!" tag
 - 22 Occupied
 - 26 Daze
 - 27 Private student
 - 28 Construct
 - 29 You can stand at some while working
 - 30 Has the goal of
 - 31 Its capital is Damascus
 - 32 Still at Disney?
 - 33 Test versions of software
 - 34 "Better late than never," e.g.
 - 35 The Prince of Darkness
 - 39 Type of parrot in Blue Sky's "Rio"
 - 40 Make a mistake
 - 44 Salt-N-___
 - 46 Wiped clean
 - 47 Comedian's "thing"
 - 48 Beverage often sweetened with honey
 - 51 Ballet bends
 - 52 Palindromic belief
 - 53 Lead-in to "physics" or "turf"
 - 55 Big ruckus
 - 56 They're not free of charge
 - 57 Mexico's ___ California
 - 58 Word aptly found in "perimeter"
 - 59 "Back to Black" singer Winehouse
 - 60 Change directions suddenly
 - 61 Nwodim of "SNL"

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022 Success Formula for a Gemini Moon



There's a season for striving and one for accepting. There are times to flex and nap times, ideal moments for sharing and for shutting up. Under this sociable Gemini moon, understanding the season you're in isn't about deciding who you want to be or choosing the right action. Success formula: show up, read the room, respond from there.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't know how interesting you are, and that is a hefty part of your appeal. You'll like the kind of attention you draw today from a smart, subtle admirer.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Someone would appreciate if your likes and dislikes were the same as theirs, but you're no conformist. Instead of expressing differences, steer clear of certain subjects altogether as you head toward common ground.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Shopping isn't necessarily buying. Perhaps the only way to accomplish the former without the latter today is to leave your wallet at home while you go deeper in the investigation of your options.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Take your work to a new environment. Being able to focus without distraction will make you twice as productive as you would be in the hubbub of familiar surroundings.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's one of those high-energy days when you know what you want and you go for it in a big way. Your object of desire has a glittery appeal, yet it will quickly wash out against the brightness of the journey itself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Stand back, take a breath and see your situation anew. Are you handing your power over to someone else? Self-respect is a renewable resource, but if you don't give it away, you'll still have it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Don't forget that over your lifetime, you've changed in all kinds of ways. The song says to "pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and start all over again." Today it's as easy to sing as it is to accomplish.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Remember when these rules you abide by were brand-new to you? Now it's second nature to drive inside the lines. Enjoy your current mastery. You'll soon be in a different situation where you'll learn anew.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You may feel that you know all there is to know about a certain situation. Is it true? Put yourself to the test. Teach others. If you have holes in your knowledge, they'll show you where they are so you can patch them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you could only do one thing to make your life more enjoyable, less stressful and better all around, the top contender is this: sleep. What would you have to do to get excellent and plentiful z's?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). An idea is forming. It's not quite in the frame yet, but thoughts and feelings are coming together. By Monday you'll have a clear picture of what you want to do next.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Temptation abounds. Deprivation makes things worse. Buy the small portion. Treat yourself to a little. A treat, by definition, is something you don't get very often.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 13). Youth is a non-renewable resource, but vitality can and will be cultivated through this solar journey. A special relationship will be constant motivation to do the things that make you feel most alive. There's a change-up of property and possessions that will reflect your evolving values. Aries and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 33, 25, 4 and 17.

Universal SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

