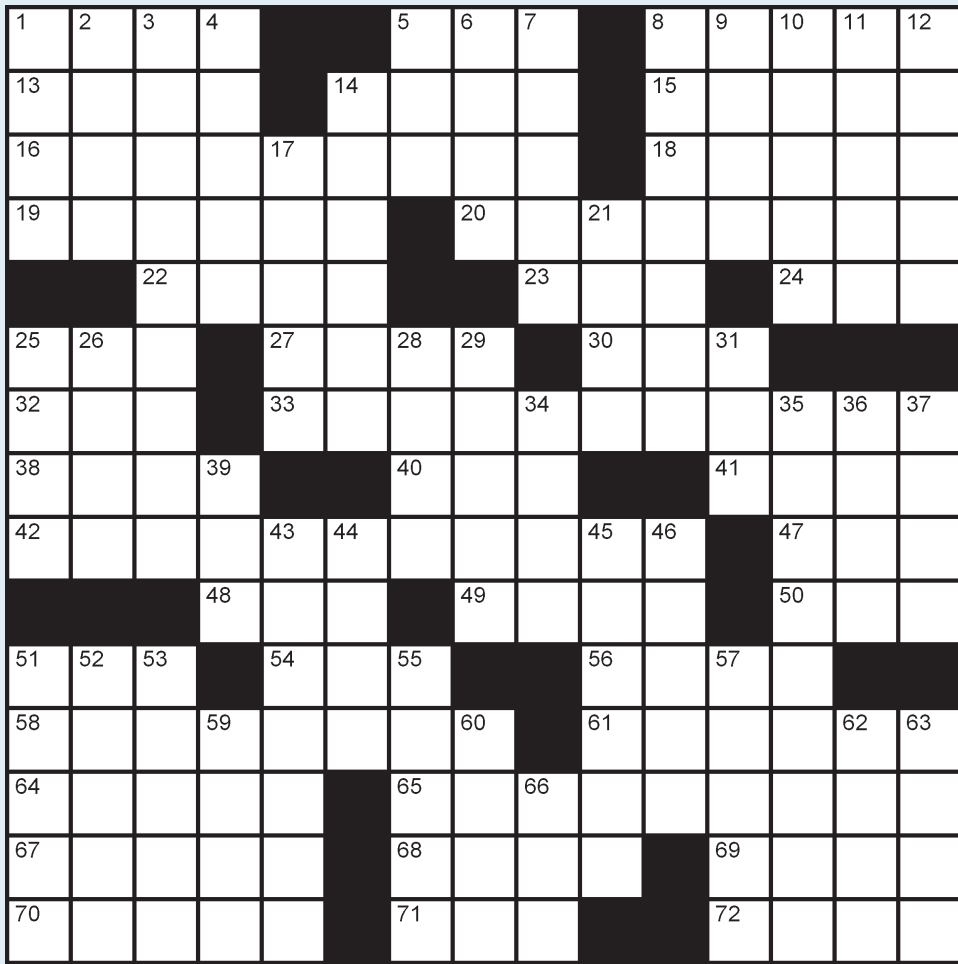


Wrap Party by Adrian Johnson

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Tremendously
 - 5 Take to court
 - 8 Board, in room and board
 - 13 Stud site
 - 14 Top-ranked
 - 15 "Lord of the Worlds" in the Quran
 - 16 Tex-Mex chain (In this clue's answer, note the first 2 letters + the last 2)
 - 18 Harsh light
 - 19 Iron deficiency
 - 20 Tender spot to hit in conversation (... first 2 letters + last 2)
 - 22 Shredded
 - 23 Rosalynn Carter, ___ Smith
 - 24 One shows you the way
 - 25 Fuming
 - 27 Repeat
 - 30 H.S. support group
 - 32 Civil rights ___
 - 33 "Defying Gravity," in "Wicked" (... first 4 letters + last 2)
 - 38 ___ out (ventilates)
 - 40 Untruth
 - 41 Cover with asphalt
 - 42 Field for miners? (... first 2 letters + last 3)
 - 47 Telluride SUV maker
 - 48 Gossip
 - 49 Galaxy part
 - 50 Sick
 - 51 Boxer Laila
 - 54 Apr. book reviewer
 - 56 Connect them!
 - 58 Fund (... first 2 letters + last 2)
 - 61 Polished, as a paper
 - 64 NASA scientist Easley
 - 65 Country home to the ancient Mayan city Tikal (... first letter + last 3)
 - 67 Fragrance
 - 68 A Shakespeare play has five
 - 69 Hip to
 - 70 Groups of 12-Down
 - 71 Squeeze (by)
 - 72 Minor dent
- DOWN**
- 1 Actress Jessica
 - 2 Item of interest to a bank?
 - 3 Small collectible
 - 4 "I love you," in Spanish
 - 5 "Catch my drift?"
 - 6 Country assigned the .su domain in 1990: Abbr.
 - 7 Actor Hawke
 - 8 Repulsive "X-Men" adversary?
 - 9 Palindromic fashion magazine
 - 10 One may go off at 10 a.m.
 - 11 Baby bug
 - 12 Animals that outnumber people in New Zealand
 - 14 Stork's perch
 - 17 Discharges a T-shirt cannon
 - 21 Sobbed
 - 25 Honeyed quaff
 - 26 Opera solo
 - 28 Colorful Hindu festival
 - 29 Boo-boos
 - 31 Shazam or Snapchat
 - 34 Folder for dispatched emails
 - 35 Lahore native
 - 36 Apt word within "devilish"
 - 37 Not imagined
 - 39 Took a load off
 - 43 Private matters
 - 44 Banjo accessory
 - 45 West Point students
 - 46 Crumble away
 - 51 Make mortified
 - 52 Knight's long weapon
 - 53 Word with "voice" or "peace"
 - 55 Fish tank buildup
 - 57 Lacking courage
 - 59 Ilk
 - 60 What skill really was, per a sore loser
 - 62 North Carolina college
 - 63 "Aw, heck!"
 - 66 Enjoyed jiaozi

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2022 Retrograde Alert



The first Mercury retrograde of 2022 occurs in Aquarius, the sign of technology. To depend too heavily on machines is to be weakened by them. When machines disappoint, this presents an opportunity to use different modes of problem solving. The first thing to ask is whether the thing we're trying to accomplish is even necessary.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you want to know what someone says about you when you're not in the room, just listen to what they say about others. They'll speak of you in the same manner. You take this principle to heart and speak kindness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You wish that you could see what another person sees during the day and feel how this person feels. Your curiosity and empathy allow you to get a glimpse and feel a tinge of what it must be like.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Being too rigid in your rules for living will only set the stage for failure. You can keep your high standards and still leave margins for error, impulse, desire and the unknown.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In the early stages of a goal, it will help to have a coach or accountability partner. After a few wins, you will no longer need the outside help. Self-discipline isn't so hard, really. You tell yourself what to do and then you do it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). People aren't telling the whole story. There's more you should know. If you ask directly, you're unlikely to get the truth. Press gently and observe or wait for unguarded moments to reveal more.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It is lucky to know where temptation lives. Don't even go down that street or you'll find yourself knocking on the door. Once you're in temptation's living room, it will seem impolite to turn down the offerings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Can you believe in faeries without believing in ogres? Once you open the door to a world, all of it rushes forward to greet you, the good, the bad and the ugly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Invite others to help you. One good friend can make all the difference to your productivity. Companionship will turn a daunting task into some fun.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It will feel good to lose self-consciousness and join the group mind for a moment. You'll help others do this too. You have a way of relaxing people and making them feel safe.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your affection for someone grows and grows. It's only obvious to the keenest of observers, and most people are too busy with their own scene to fall into that category.

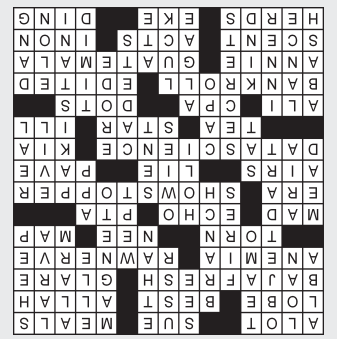
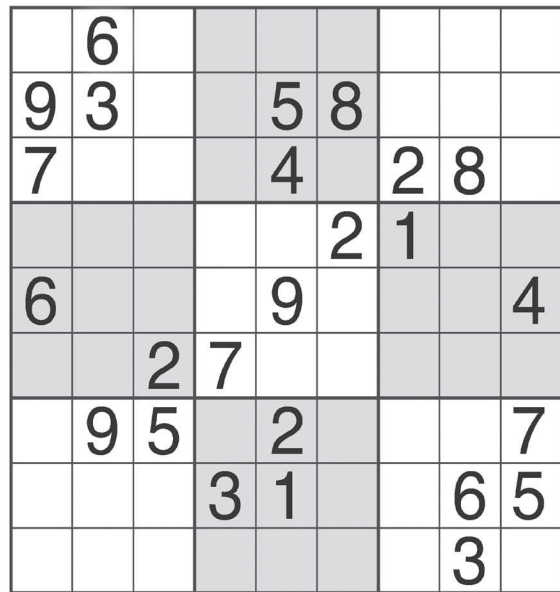
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Spiritual generosity comes very easily to you and there's more power in your kindness than you might expect. A smile, a compliment or a little time with your positivity lifts hearts and improves days.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The fish who keeps his mouth shut doesn't get caught. Right now, dear Pisces, it's better not to share too much, as it will make you unnecessarily vulnerable.

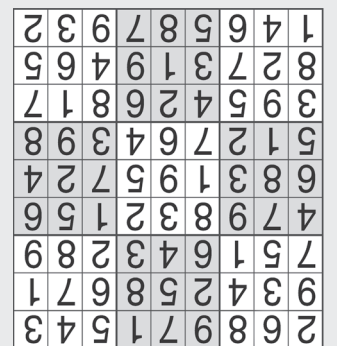
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 14). Your ambitions will be matched by your ability to realize them. For the next five weeks, the right moves will seem obvious. Make long- and short-term plans while this insight is going strong. You're undeniably attractive, so hopefully you won't mind being pursued. If you do, you'll have to bear the bother of being adored. Virgo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 12, 8, 30 and 48.

Universal SUDOKU

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

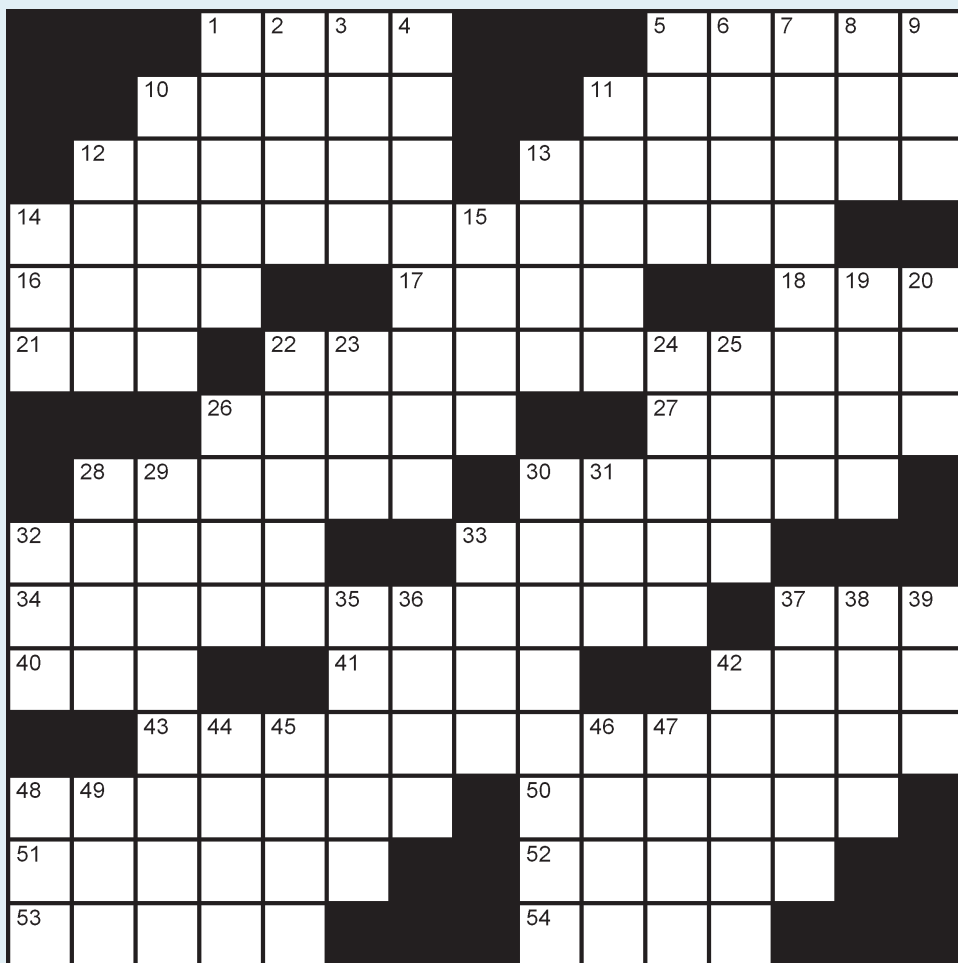


SOLUTIONS



Local Anesthesia by Joe Deeney

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Press (down)
 - 5 Raise objections
 - 10 Longest human bone
 - 11 Compliment
 - 12 Tiny tot
 - 13 Scottish city on the Clyde
 - 14 One sketching part of a bird? (Hint: This clue's answer ignores squares 2-4. Enter a body part in those squares to create valid, unclued Across and Down answers.)
 - 16 Bids the most
 - 17 "Crossword," e.g., grammatically
 - 18 Intent
 - 21 "___ alive!" (horror movie cry)
 - 22 Fire up Microsoft's search engine? (... ignores squares 6-8 ...)
 - 26 "... except that wasn't the case"
 - 27 Scorpion's substance
 - 28 Wildcat spotted in South America
 - 30 Turn left, as a screw
 - 32 Submerged sandbank
 - 33 "Speak up already!"
 - 34 The "So What" singer went fast? (... ignores squares 6-8 ...)
 - 37 One created Lake Mead
 - 40 Youngest-ever U.S. congresswoman
 - 41 Not much, as of hand sanitizer
 - 42 Perseverance rover's org.
 - 43 Extraordinary charged particle? (... ignores squares 1-3 ...)
 - 48 Pampers products
 - 50 Tips off
 - 51 Is jealous of
 - 52 Takes in a good book
 - 53 T-shirt style
 - 54 Refuse to grant
- DOWN**
- 1 *Caddie's pegs (Hint: Each starred clue's answer ignores its square in 14-, 22-, 34- or 43-Across.)
 - 2 French for "mine"
 - 3 Actress Olivia
 - 4 Exploring a baby
 - 5 Prepare, as a bath
 - 6 Relieve
 - 7 Throbbing headache
 - 8 "Until everyone comes home" org.
 - 9 "<<" letters on a remote
 - 10 *Reedy areas
 - 11 *Course of action
 - 12 *Brevity is the soul of ___
 - 13 Chow
 - 14 1914-18 conflict: Abbr.
 - 15 Bygone bird
 - 19 A party to
 - 20 Las Vegas' ___ Grand
 - 22 Idle periods
 - 23 Ear: Prefix
 - 24 *Null's partner
 - 25 *Superlative suffix
 - 26 Prominent Toucan Sam feature
 - 28 Neighbor of Indiana
 - 29 *Inward-curving
 - 30 Desk's portable substitute
 - 31 "Hey," in Chile
 - 32 Four Seasons amenity
 - 33 *___ Antonio
 - 35 *Runs on TV
 - 36 *Cinco - tres
 - 37 Board game?
 - 38 Warts and all
 - 39 Gym surface
 - 42 Studious and introverted, say
 - 44 *Instagram post, briefly
 - 45 ""That's scary!"
 - 46 Head for the hills
 - 47 Intend
 - 48 Actor Patel
 - 49 Certain Tripadvisor listing

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 2022 Retrograde Checklist



In these first moments of the Mercury retrograde, double-check the plan, confirm the appointment, read all the instructions and, most importantly of all, back up the computer. Taking precautions leads to confidence moving forward. It also makes you aware of details that often go overlooked.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Though you'd like to think you're even-tempered, you're sometimes prone to passionate flare-ups. Intensity isn't always bad. These emotions can be like a cleansing by fire.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You feel like the truth's ambassador. As the Billy Joel song goes, "honesty is such a lonely word." Don't worry; after you speak to the reality of the situation, others will join in.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's good to take action, but it's not enough. Taking action repeatedly and consistently is the way to success. Make it easy. Adjust your schedule and environment to support not only this step but the next one and the next.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The social demands of the day happen to be perfectly in line with what you love to deliver. Even so, after all the excitement, you'll need time to recharge in solitude.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Instead of fixing what's broken, focus on what's working. As you maximize the potential of what's already going right in your world, you'll create brilliance enough to overshadow the rest.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're still figuring out how to put yourself forth so that people understand who you are. As you relate to more people, you'll find what does and doesn't work. Commit to the process and expect to make mistakes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You give. If their response is not appreciative, you stop giving. If it seems your gift is appreciated, you give more, thus increasing both your power and your responsibilities.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can't do everything yourself; however, you will be empowered by solo work this weekend. The fewer people involved, the better your project will turn out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). In love and art, it's often what you leave out that makes people lean in. When in doubt, leave space for people to fill with their imaginations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your powers of observation are dialed in to the degree that it almost seems like you can read certain people's thoughts. Group dynamics will be especially interesting to you.

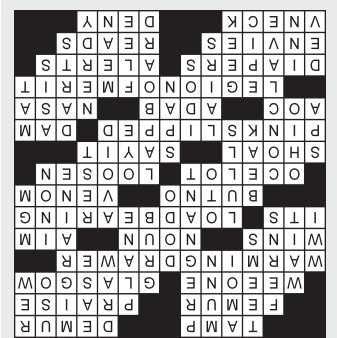
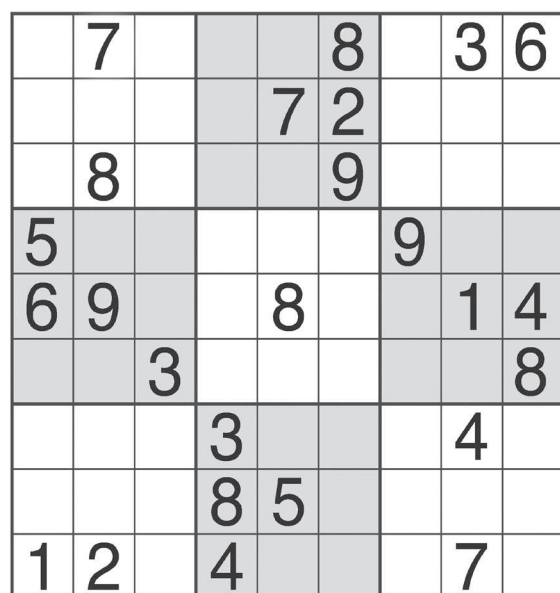
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Conflict-free collaborations are easiest, but don't always bring about the best result. You'll learn more from the person who disagrees. Ask them to shoot down your plan and you'll learn how to make it bulletproof.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Love and attraction live in two different parts of the brain, but both areas will light up at the same time today when you connect with an attractive someone on matters of mutual interest.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 15). This year you'll know what it's like to be a free spirit, to feel as though your heart has wings that allow your relationships to soar with the eagles. Social contacts lead to bigger earnings. An important renovation project will take months of your time, but you'll get to make things your own from the bottom up. Libra and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 30, 11, 28 and 8.

Universal SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

