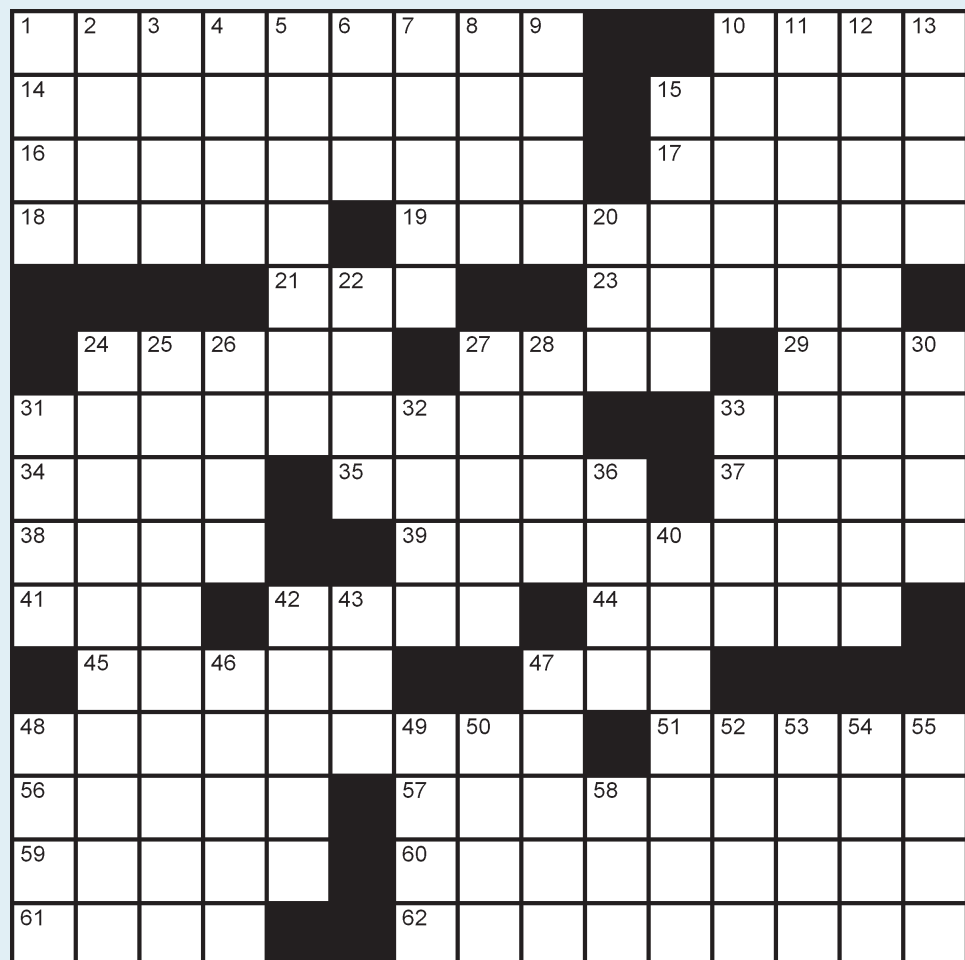


Universal Freestyle 3 by Craig Stowe

Universal Crossword edited by Amanda Rafkin



- ACROSS
1 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough' singer
10 Underlying cause
14 Onslaught of both real and fake news
15 Skin care or printing product
16 Daytime TV drama
17 Best
18 Throat melody, for short
19 'Wise up!'
21 It might be spilled, in more ways than one
23 '___ No More' (immersive theater production)
24 Had the guts
27 Cuts down
29 Sing with your mouth closed
31 Embezzlement, e.g.
33 Draw the short straw
34 Exhausts
35 Desensitizes
37 Yours and mine
38 'Makes sense to me'
39 Precedent-setting trials
41 Roofing goo
42 Back talk
44 Addition to a building
45 Disney film whose remake stars Liu Yifei
47 Big bang source?
48 By its very nature
51 The Phantom of the Opera's instrument
56 Wind instrument that Lizzo plays
57 'This is our destination!'
59 What F6 and F8 might represent on ticket stubs
60 All of the leads in 'Ocean's 8,' e.g.
61 Munch Museum city
62 'So relatable!'
DOWN
1 Put down
2 Playing a tie-breaking quarter, briefly
3 Way off
4 'Don't think so'
5 Welcomed into the family
6 Single goblet squat
7 Horseshoe-shaped Greek letter
8 Father
9 Sing 'Doo-bee doo-bop,' perhaps
10 66, for one
11 Free
12 Sophocles tragedy after which a Freudian concept was named
13 Moderate horse gait
15 Works like a dog
20 Opposite of ENE
22 Adam's apple locale?
24 Collections for genetic testing
25 Like always
26 Get up
27 Great Lakes mnemonic
28 Flows back
30 Glitter often makes one
31 'That so?'
32 Sticks (out)
33 Cash advance
36 Superfan
40 Tallest freestanding structure in the Western Hemisphere
42 Jewelry boxes?
43 Gasteyer of 'Lady Dynamite'
46 Game nearly everyone loses
47 Linzer ___ (fruit pastry)
48 'In that case ...'
49 Drink that might be served with cake rusk
50 The 'T' in STEM, informally
52 Take it easy
53 Deep wound
54 Field of study
55 Home on a Wingspan card
58 Period that might be named for a president

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16 Profound Pronouncements of Pluto



There's an energy bump that comes with being on the right track. We notice how our vitality surges in certain situations, and particular people seem to activate our better angles. The sun aligns with Pluto to help us understand the significance of our attractions. What's good for us will come with a sense of profundity.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Half-hearted commitment won't produce half-hearted results, rather it will produce no results. The price for what you want is a full commitment. If you can't commit fully, maybe it's not the right thing to want.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). This is a lucky day, especially when you add a little elbow grease, curiosity and research to the equation. A little work and a calculated risk will improve your lot.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You read people well. You know what they look like when they're interested in something. There's no one-size-fits-all answer to what people want today, so your observational talents will help you figure it out.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your goal is uncommon, so you don't have explicit instructions about how to get there. You'll get to make it up as you go. Keep at it and you'll wind up with something unique.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Take a cue from your guiding planet, the sun. The sun doesn't worry about giving equally to everyone; it shines for all. It's your job to radiate. It's their job to get warm.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Information is floating in; this is no coincidence. You're meant to learn, so gather it up and wait; there's more to come over. You'll know when to make your move because there will be a much stronger impulse spurring you on.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Whatever resistance you have to your work, you'll still manage to get it done. Knowing this, you might decide to drop the friction; it only makes things harder. Give in to the toil.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's a discomfort in having to explain yourself. It does imply that others have a right to know the ins and outs of your decision-making which, when you think about it, is an arguable premise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's too soon to say whether you like or agree with what is going on. Break it down, try to figure out the smaller pieces, then put it back together and see if the whole picture makes a little more sense.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Awkwardness happens. It's the natural byproduct of daring attempts and trying unfamiliar things. So much of life is awkward, that is if you're doing it right.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're doing more than you used to and possibly more than you should. Irritations in the afternoon signal the need for rest. Can you arrange a break? Can you expect less from yourself?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The plot turns meta. Thinking into the thinking will be necessary. It takes a secure person to be objective about the inner world and open your own ideas up for a little scrutiny; you are such a person.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 16). You learned manners and social behaviors at home, but you'll seek the extra polish and training that makes you comfortable in unfamiliar situations and gain an edge. Learning different customs and language opens the world to you. An educational pursuit will connect you with friends, money and love. Virgo and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 33, 2, 21 and 16.

Universal SUDOKU

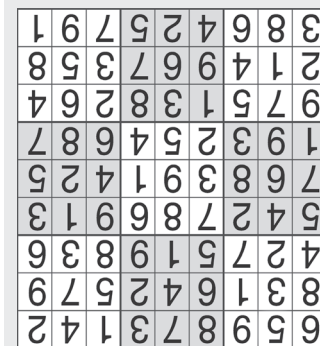
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆☆

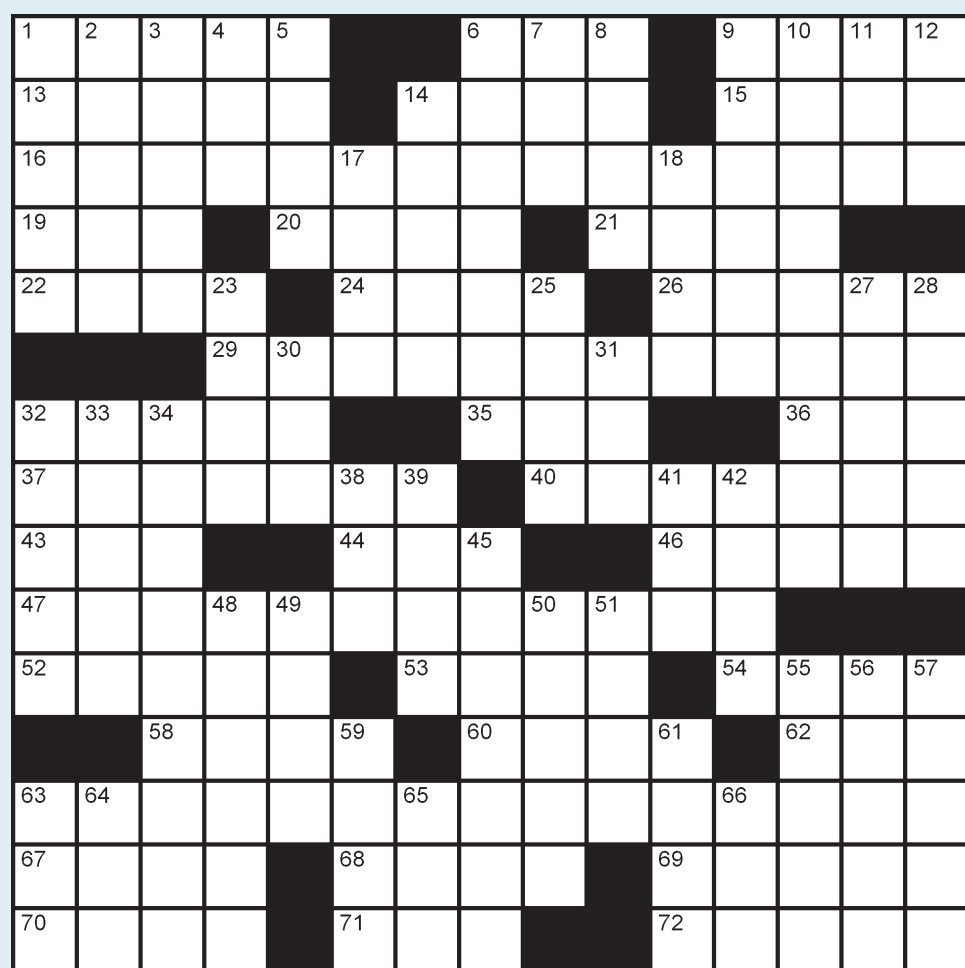


SOLUTIONS



The Muppets Go Undercover by Michael Schlossberg

Universal Crossword edited by Amanda Rafkin



- ACROSS
1 Touch and go?
6 Acrobat's safety item
9 What a cryptogram is written in
13 Message sent with a click
14 Earth's is made of iron and nickel
15 Ice skating jump
16 First-person reporting style popularized by Hunter S. Thompson
19 Biblical boat
20 Oscars adjective
21 Lost traction
22 NASDAQ alternative
24 Dirty work?
26 Burn with water
29 Vespa, e.g.
32 Part of a flight
35 Go out for a bit?
36 ___ pickle
37 Mints in a clear box
40 Track on a Lil Nas X album, e.g.
43 And so on, for short
44 Luau bowlful
46 'Hamilton' won 11 in 2016
47 Side dish named for a New York hotel
52 Surly growl
53 Freebie that might hold other freebies
54 Sound-boosting gear
58 'Othello' villain
60 Heaps
62 Pie ___ mode
63 Many a cat or dog
67 Skedaddle
68 Stick with it!
69 Circle the Earth
70 Roulette statistic
71 As point value in Scrabble
72 Magical legumes in 'Into the Woods'
DOWN
1 What a V on a menu might stand for
2 University in Atlanta
3 Puts in order of preference
4 Line of work, informally
5 Unideal roommate for a neatnik
6 Sign at an intersection
7 Play an F instead of an F#, say
8 Perfect scores for gymnasts
9 Tricolor kitty
10 Process that creates rust
11 ___ Moines, Iowa
12 Stately tree
14 Pink cocktail, for short
17 Joke
18 'The Sun Is ___ a Star' (Yoon novel)
23 Send out
25 Ruler of old Russia
27 Singer Kravitz
28 Progresses s-l-o-w-l-y
30 '___ ___ lack thereof'
31 Tax prep pro
32 Goulash and burgoo, e.g.
33 Industry giant
34 Strongly praised
38 Emergency contact, for short?
39 Like some pretzels and taco shells
41 School grp. with no children in it
42 Drink at a pizza party, often
45 Alternative form of an element
48 They're often drawn in the evening
49 YouTube star Kay
50 Seek forgiveness
51 Singer/activist Horne
55 Venomous African snake
56 No-frills
57 Seasons, like fries
59 Aware of
61 Hoity-toity person
63 Corporate \$\$\$ exec
64 'I was today years ___ when ...'
65 Actor McKellen
66 'Seeing red' feeling

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2022 Hungry Like the Wolf Moon



It is said that a wolf howls more on an empty stomach. The full moon in January is a Duran Duran song, a wild call and an omen for a weather change both emotional and environmental. The full moon in Cancer, the sign of home, is also an encouragement to stock up with the nourishment to feed the soul.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Confusing communication is an opportunity to sleuth your way to the truth, or something close to it. The story is an argument, and the argument is a story.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are duty-bound, though this is a loyalty of your own making. You decided what was required, and you will fulfill it. An independent mission such as this is the stuff of vitality.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your choices are clear. You can either fall back asleep to dream another dream, or you can get out the pen and paper and start hashing out the original dream. Start with a to-do list.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In a good relationship, there is no such thing as a winner and a loser. If one person is losing, you both are. You have to be on the same team or it won't work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Not everyone is bound to a civic calendar. You'll have to work out scheduling, and the ins and outs of school and business will be considered. You'll find a way to fit in what's important to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Persistence often wins out. Though tenacity is the hallmark of many successful people, most successful people also know when to back off and let the other person come forward.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You know how to make yourself useful, but if you make this your default, you'll only get, well... used! You're a person, too. You deserve pleasure as much as anyone. Your No. 1 responsibility is to enjoy yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've been considering a move, and you'll make it very soon. Get ready. There's an element of self-discipline involved in the ramp-up. You have it in you. Get in motion and you'll find it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Decisiveness is attractive. Vacillation makes people nervous. Sometimes you want people to be nervous, but not now. You'll decide one way or the other and take action; this carries you into a happy mood.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have a passion for understanding. This will not be shared by 90% of the people you know, yet you won't be lonely in it. Your curiosity is mighty fine company.

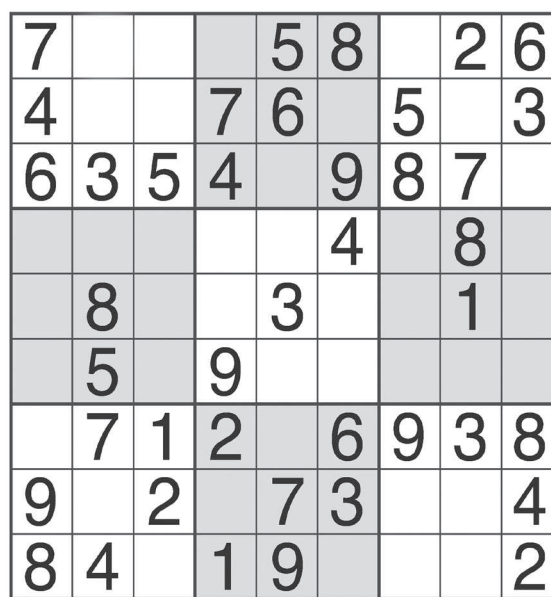
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Maybe it's better not to ask people what they mean by something after the fact. So much life goes by every hour. Memory fails. Instead, be very present in the moment of discernment, which is to say now, always now.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can pretend to be someone you'd like to be, but who you really are is lovelier to the right crowd. The right crowd should include yourself. Self-acceptance is the supporter of all change.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 17). It's one of your luckiest years. You will put something in the world that didn't exist before. You'll turn up the heat on your physical fitness goals. Strength training that works your body and mind will get you ready for the opportunities ahead. You'll take achievement over comfort and stretch into a new role. Scorpio and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 24, 30, 1 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

