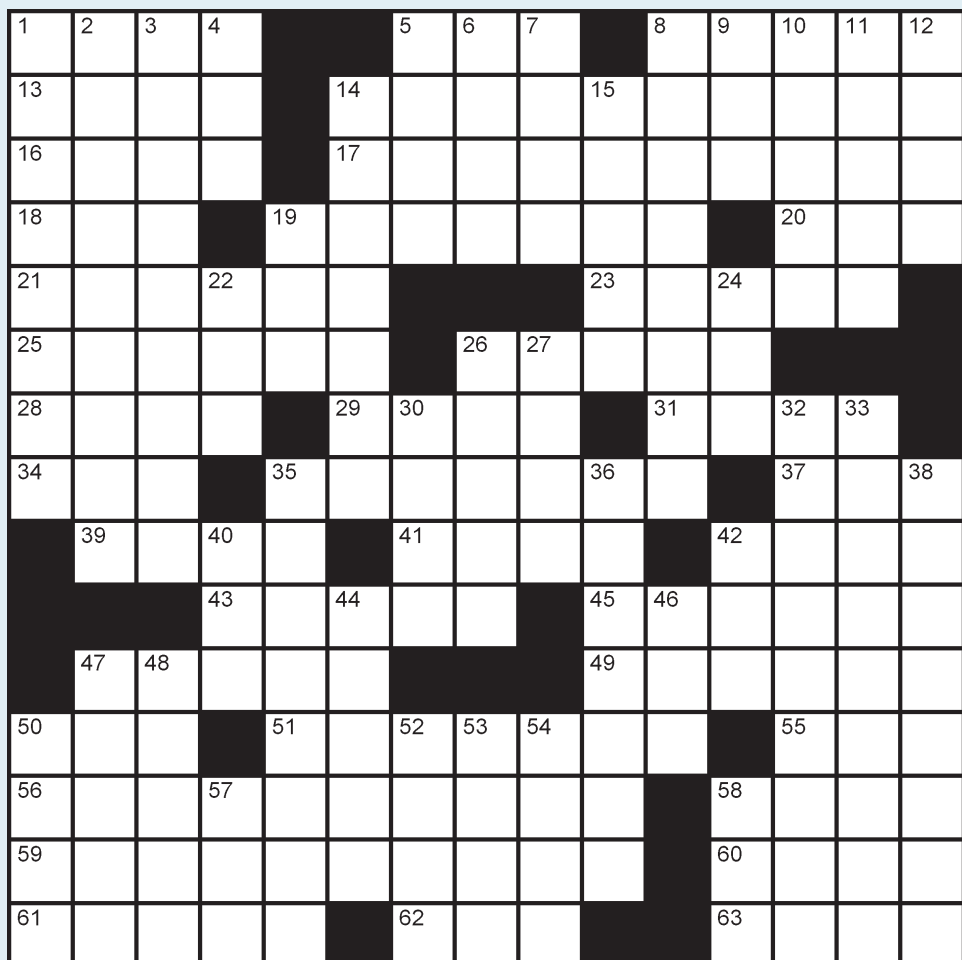


Universal Freestyle 4 by Hannah Slovt

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Common clickbait article format, 5 Sheep sound, 8 Praline ingredient, 13 On the matter of, 14 Programmer's output, 16 Ooze, 17 Natural colors, 18 Drink that sounds like its first letter, 19 Enjoys some 18-Across, 20 Suitable, 21 Cocktail made with lime juice and gin, 23 Slanted, in Sussex, 25 If all goes well, 26 Apple drink, 28 Minor roadblock, 29 Con artist, e.g., 31 Common bridal attire, 34 ___ sticker (certain dumpling), 35 "Lights out!", 37 Writing tip?, 39 Cry on a slide, 41 Word that sounds like its first and last vowels, 42 "Noble Blood" host Schwartz, 43 Puerto ____, 45 Cultivated crops, 47 Sign for most of September, 49 "Strange ...", 50 Bud, 51 Provide care to, 55 Scratch up, 56 Extra pieces, 58 Trait carrier, 59 One of 100 in the United States, 60 Ancient Peruvian, 61 Part of LGBTQ+, 62 "That's amusing", 63 A rose's is thorny, DOWN: 1 Desperate final attempt, 2 "Took me a minute to find that", 3 Spa offering with ancient Roman origins, 4 Burned layer of creme brulee, 5 Feathery scarves, 6 Ambience, 7 Crafts' partner, 8 Personal annoyance, 9 Prefix with "friendly" or "tourism", 10 "___ O'Brien Needs a Friend" (weekly podcast), 11 Skilled, 12 What a crane constructs, 14 Home of the Space Needle, 15 Kid, 19 "___ So Shy" (hit for The Pointer Sisters), 22 Segment of a trip, 24 "Where ___ we?", 26 Game with a hexagonal board, 27 Pupil controller, 30 Concept, 32 Soon, 33 Sequence of synchronized steps, 35 Deep-fried pastries popular in New Orleans, 36 Impatient kid's request, 38 Nightmare, 40 Take a wrong turn, say, 42 Many AMA members, 44 Two-door car, 46 Consumed, 47 E-cig user, 48 Glazer of "Broad City", 50 (Over here!), 52 Not well thought out, 53 Oak or elm, 54 Zion National Park's home, 57 Sprinted, 58 USO show attendees

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022 Sun Conjunct Mercury Retrograde



A hectic conjunction of the sun and a retrograde Mercury could bring on overwhelming feelings for those prone to such a default setting. It's not the only option. It can be avoided by saying no to things, or by saying yes and taking a sporting attitude about the challenge. Doing the hard things is what makes us great.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're getting to the deeper levels of a task. Repetition will only make you sharper. Even if you take the exact path you took yesterday, you'll still learn something new.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). As you help someone out of a sticky situation, glue gets on you. The trick is to stay in motion. Keep moving through it before it dries on you and you get stuck, too.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Memories rewrite themselves each time you visit them, which changes your experience of the past but doesn't change the actual past. Someone else sees it differently. They may be as correct as you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You belong in creative dialogue with people you admire and respect. You'll be influenced by people who capture your imagination and lead your thoughts to expansive, colorful new places.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You feel ready to live bigger but oddly enough, it's best accomplished by simplifying and focusing on fewer things. Progress is a function of concentrating your efforts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A little cleaning, clearing a bit of clutter, adding a personal touch to your environment -- these are the things that make you feel more centered and settled against the backdrop of an unpredictable world.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). With a different approach, things can and will change. With the same approach, you will get the same outcome. Knowing what to try next is the tricky part. Get advice from the experienced.

Smart people with the wrong strategy are worse off than monkeys with the right game plan. Read through all the instructions before you execute the task.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Interesting developments are happening in your realm of finance. For instance, what was once valuable to you for purely sentimental reasons may now have a monetary value, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Remember when you weren't very well-known and you struggled for recognition? Now, others struggle to get (SET ITAL) your(END ITAL) attention. You are challenged to spend it wisely.

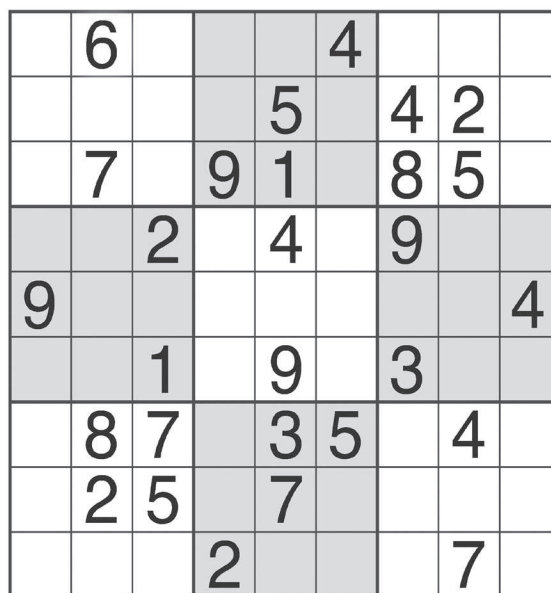
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Crimes go unpunished by the usual standards yet, in a weird way, justice will be served. The same goes for rewards. They come indirectly but abundantly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You think about what's around the bend and how you want to show up for it. You are prepared to contribute and will have a clear advantage over those who have not thought ahead, which will be most people.

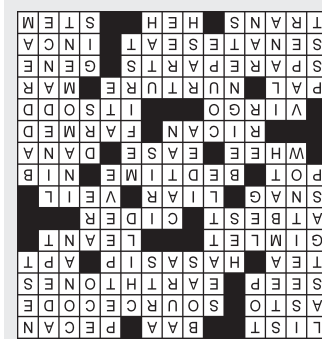
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 23). You'll have a benefactor. Enjoy your good fortune, knowing that in time you'll provide as much benefit to this person as you receive. Friends lavish you in love and opportunities, including the chance to participate and contribute in realms you wouldn't have known about. Your financial instincts are strong. Sagittarius and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 2, 14, 5 and 11.

Universal SUDOKU

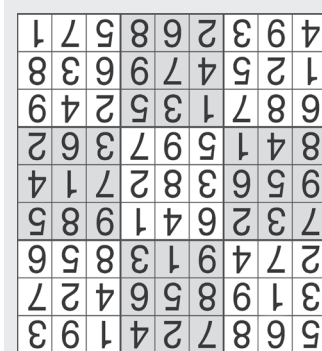
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

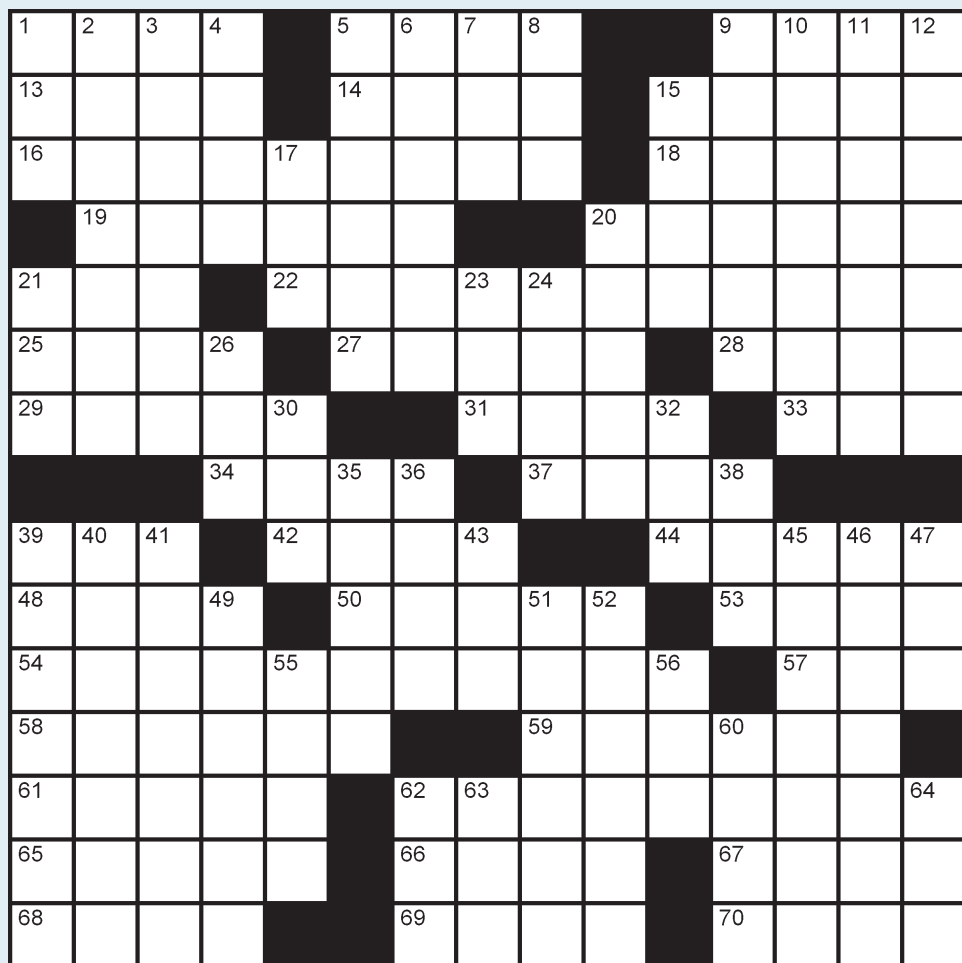


SOLUTIONS



Beginning of Winter by Julian Lim

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Tennis shoe brand, 5 Doll's cry, 9 Brink, 13 Noodles served with tempura, 14 Name hidden in "final answer", 15 Word aptly removed from e__ation, 16 What natural athletes possess, 18 Protractor measurement, 19 Regard like the Cheshire Cat, 20 Princesses' headpieces, 21 "7 Rings" singer Grande, to fans, 22 Slowpoke's speed, 25 Flea or fly, 27 Acting like, 28 "East of ___", 29 Removes the rind from, 31 Hit, as one's toe, 33 "C'___ la viel", 34 With 37-Across, "Saturday Night Live" start ... or a hint to 16-, 22-, 54- and 62-Across, 37 See 34-Across, 39 "Shop ___ You Drop", 42 God, to the Romans, 44 Birds "a laying" in "The Twelve Days of Christmas", 48 Gets on in years, 50 Devices that produce, 54 15-Across, informally, 53 October birthstone, 54 Honesty that's hard to swallow, 57 Kind or sort, 58 Where many a flap occurs?, 59 Flea or fly, 61 Short quarrel, 62 Harsh cleverness, 65 Minecraft blocks, e.g., 66 Desktop with Thunderbolt ports, 67 Actress Torres, 68 Commentator's column, 69 Dweeb, 70 Smallest bills, DOWN: 1 Material that PETA protests, 2 "Sounds right to me", 3 Unlike skyscrapers, 4 Not pro, 5 Peace Prize winner Yousafzai, 6 Suds dispenser?, 7 See 8-Down, 8 With 7-Down, Marvel hero named for a small crawler, 9 Bite-sized hors d'oeuvre, 10 Get out of economy class, say, 11 Consoles, 12 Is tense?, 15 Colorado ski area, 17 Taiwanese-born director Lee, 20 Prepare to advance a base, 21 Headspace, for one, 23 Opposite of trans, 24 Really enjoying, 26 "Unpretty" girl group, 30 Grassy covering, 32 Plead, 35 Skeptical, 36 ___ tape (DIYer's roll), 38 Prefix with "nate", 39 Sriracha relative, 40 "You've stumped me", 41 Album that was the Beatles' swan song, 43 Address akin to madam, 45 Total pwnage, 46 Cracker served with chowder, 47 Big, bugling animal, 49 Declared, 51 Instrument that gives learners calluses, 52 "Jolly old" fella, 55 Love god, 56 Buying channel, 60 Waffle choice, 62 eBay action, 63 "If u ask me ...", 64 Many are grad students

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022 Mars Makes Cool-Headed Move



Hyperawareness is often linked to anxiety, and ignorance to bliss. Neither cliché is true, especially as Mars enters cool Capricorn with wide-open eyes. It is possible to be very alert without anxiety. This cosmic omen is a confidence boost and a suggestion to go easy. Shift the internal posture to calm and watchful. Let it all fall into place.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The shortcut is safe but expensive. Whether it's worth it depends on you how you want to be spending your time. There's no wrong choice, so make your decision quickly and commit.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The wisest way to go about your day is to start with the ever-important question, "Is this worth doing?" Maybe you won't feel the same in five hours or in five years but right now, if it matters to you, it matters, period.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Grand developments are merely a series of well-aligned small accomplishments. The steps you take now are building toward something substantial.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You could explain yourself but it's wiser not to. Saying less allows the action to move along. Bonus: You get to maintain the sense of mystery that's been working so well for you lately.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Because you are open and supportive, people will tell you their thoughts and plans even if they have nothing to do with you. In situations where you are a team member or leader, your receptivity will have obvious advantages.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Conflict resolution is your talent of the day. One reason you're so good at this is that you leave your ego out of the equation. You hear the other side first and prepare your offer or argument only after you've gotten their story.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're an expert at determining quickly what can be controlled and what can't, then accepting your findings. Success is a function of embracing the truth and tending to only the controllable matters.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're walking around with your eyes wide open. You take your responsibility to the world seriously. You're busy creating the environment you want to live in. It's a lot. Allow for breaks.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). While it's difficult to quit established habits, it's easy to get interested in new ventures. Use "shiny object syndrome" to your advantage. Pursue the shimmer of new goals, and the old ways naturally lose their appeal.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What you intend is intrinsic to the alchemy of the action. The same move can be made out of strategy or impulse, from anger, passion or loyalty. Each mode will have a different result.

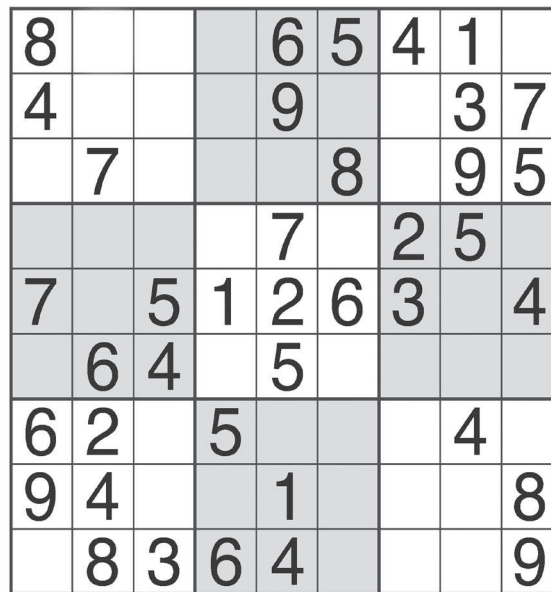
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If you feel like the situation isn't right for you, let that be enough to say no. You don't need to be able to explain your feelings to anyone, not even to yourself. Believe your intuition.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll contribute to others according to your mood. Things you've been known to give include: information, provisions, good cheer, support or space and freedom.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 24). A creative, tenacious visionary, you'll sell people on your plan using a combination of approaches. Your ambitions are altruistic. Your keen understanding of what others need and how you can benefit them makes you a trusted leader. In turn, you'll get exactly what you need, and in delightful, surprising ways. Scorpio and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 1, 44, 39 and 14.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

