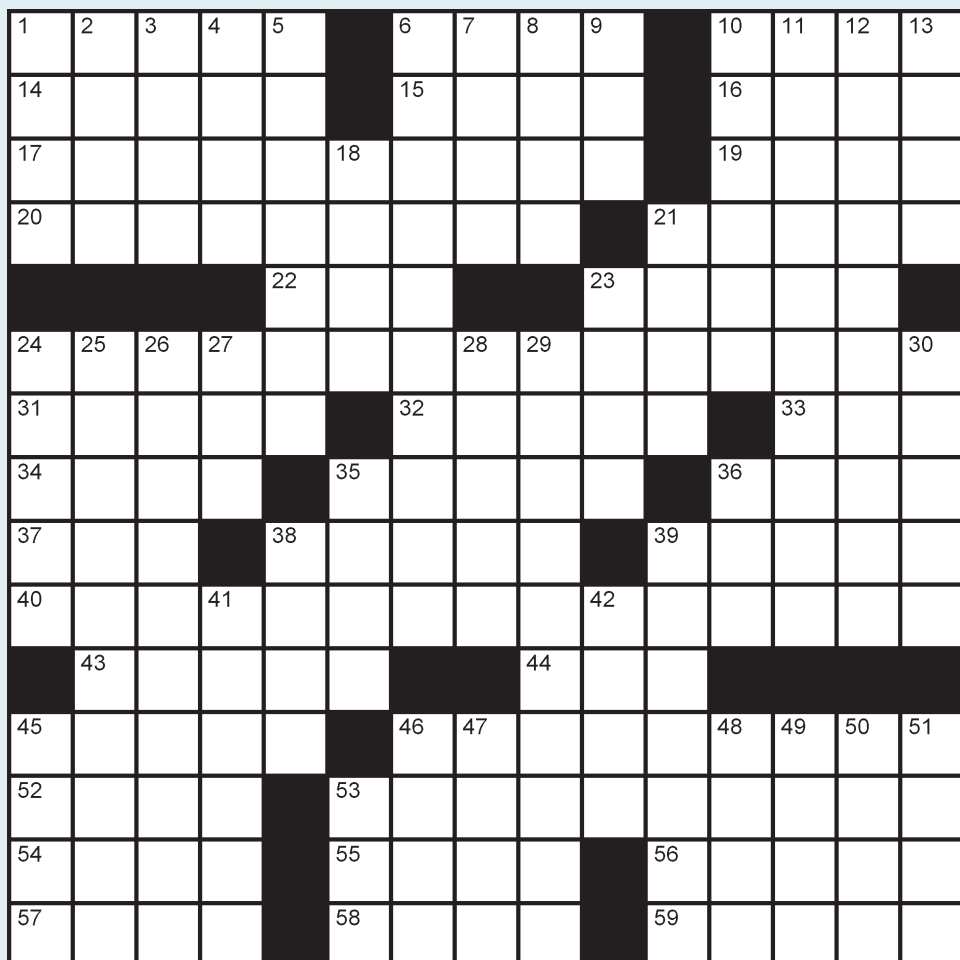


Universal Freestyle 5 by Jared Goudsmit

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Witness's spot, 6 Great songs, informally, 10 "If the shoe ...", 14 Detoxifying organ, 15 Up to the task, 16 It fills un lago, 17 Inaccurate signoff on a walkie-talkie, 19 Accurate response to 17-Across, 20 Scrabble and Boggle, 21 Encrypted URL start, 22 Hush-hush grp., 23 Freetown, Sierra, 24 Trickery, 31 Unexpressed, 32 Sleep and shelter, 33 Only even prime number, 34 Domain, 35 Is flexible, 36 "From hell's heart I stab at thee" speaker in "Moby-Dick", 37 Apt name for a mamma?, 38 "Thanks," in Toulouse, 39 Church topper, 40 It goes in circles but gets to the point, 43 Painter whose name appears backward in "oat milk", 44 "I disapprove!", 45 Express aloud, 46 Fruit sphere in a cocktail, 52 It becomes another name when H's are added to its ends, 53 Eclair seller, 54 Examined the license of, e.g., 55 Treasure, 56 "44", 57 Director Ephron, 58 Cameron of "Shrek", 59 Concrete support, 3 Declare, 4 Pi Day celebrant, maybe, 5 Sergeant Friday's classic show, 6 What interrupting demonstrates, 7 Instrument with a three-vowel name, 8 It shares a key with equals, 9 Play backdrop, 10 1, 3 or 9, to 9, 11 "Couldn't tell ya!", 12 Containers that "burp" when sealed, 13 Verbalizes, 18 High-minded org.?, 21 Possessive for Batwoman, 23 Skid (helmets, slangily), 24 Word after "food" or "forever", 25 She only keeps things that spark joy, 26 Carnival property?, 27 Sportage automaker, 28 Judi in "Skyfall", 29 Hype campaign, 30 Far from hammered, 35 Karate wear, 36 Human, for one, 38 Performer who may pretend to be in a box, 39 Back with cash, 41 Insect whose buzz can reach 106.7 decibels, 42 They jump up Down Under, 45 Egotistical, 46 "Moana" character or Hawaiian island, 47 Sicilian mount, 48 Pop singer Rexha, 49 Part of UAE, 50 Peru's capital, 51 Shakespearean king, 53 A great degree?

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2022 Solar Surprise



The sun squares Uranus, the planet of surprises, suggesting unexpected and rather inconvenient action. This is precisely what makes champions: the odd challenge thrown into the mix, the obstacle that demands a workaround, the inventions that occur on the way to never solving an unsolvable problem. Waste no time in resisting life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Common sense tells us not to risk what we value, yet there is something more complicated about the matter. Competition, jealousy, passion and other heated emotions can cause people to put strange things on the line.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If today were a slot machine it would be coming up all sevens, paid out in fortuitous connections. Seize opportunities because they won't come again in exactly this lucky way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There will be a little drama, but no need to accuse, blame or complain. You'll simply speak about how you feel from a very loving heart and finally be heard.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If life is a classroom, you'll need to sit up front today to hear the teacher. Do the cool kids sit up front? No. But it's better to understand the lesson than to hang in the back with the glamorous ignorants.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you can look back and see that you've made many mistakes, it means you've lived, risked and grown. Experience will be its own reward, but that's not the only one you'll get for your trouble.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Supposedly, while doing what you love you're not working at all. That doesn't mean you won't sweat or come away with sore muscles. You're a child on the playground of life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). No good comes of perseverance. No one else is thinking of your past mistakes, so you should let them go, too. Distract yourself with adventure.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Some people settle for trying to look busy when others are watching. You genuinely want to be of service, so when you don't have work to do, you'll find some.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). To embrace life is to willingly wrap your arms around traffic jams and noisy neighbors, inconvenient tasks and unreliable friends. But with your stellar attitude, you will also find much sweetness in today's hug of reality.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). While your high level of personal responsibility can't entirely make up for the inconsiderate general public, it will set a precedent that others will follow, making more of a difference than you'll ever know.

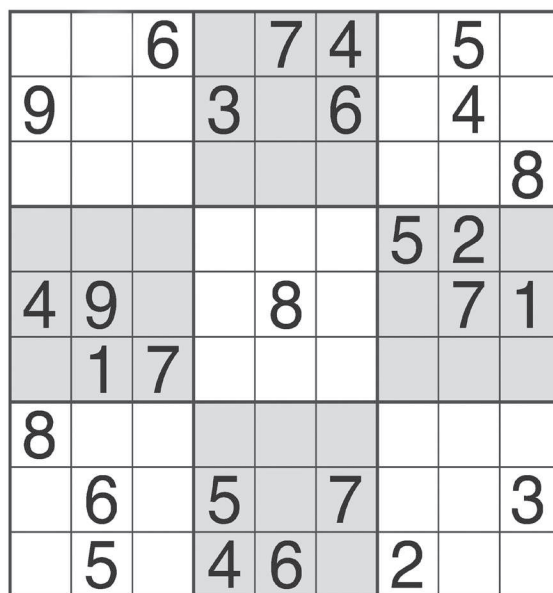
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll handle attention with your usual modesty. Your charms are further enhanced by the illusion that you are unaware of them. But of course you must have some small idea of the effect you create, right?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Coordinating timing between two or three people shouldn't be this hard. Maybe there's a reason. Pull back for an objective view and ask, "What is the best use of my time?"

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 30). You'll often get the choice between now and later. Choose now. Later has a way of disappearing. This is a year to seize your moments whether or not you feel ready. Your talents and instincts get shaped this year because you use them often and deliberately. Gut-based choices bring you love and profit. Gemini and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 40, 1, 18 and 27.

Universal SUDOKU

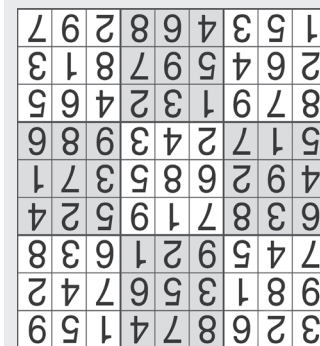
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

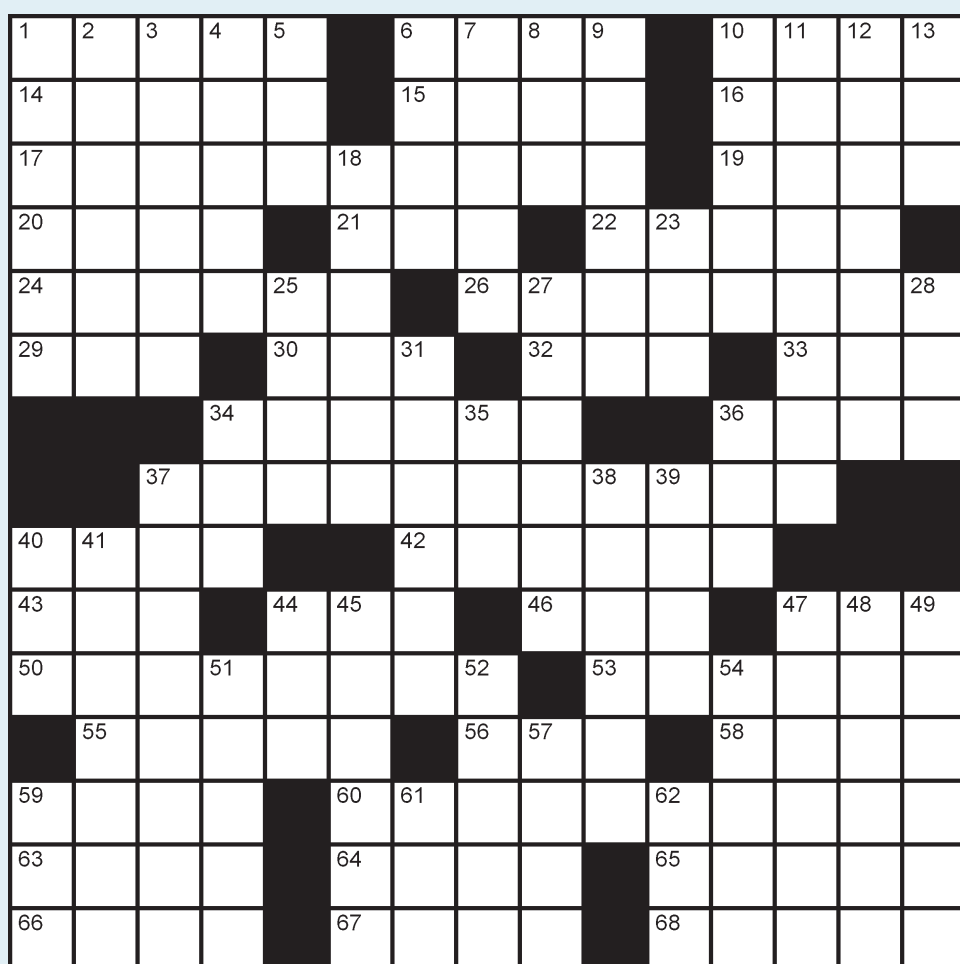


SOLUTIONS



Barriers to Entry by Rebecca Goldstein

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Flights of fancy, 6 Unexpected problem, 10 Agonize (over), 14 American Eagle intimate apparel brand, 15 Sign at a takeout counter, 16 Step before dry, 17 60-Across in heaven?, 19 Road trip game, 20 "What's more ...", 21 Pal, in Paris, 22 Ray in the ocean, 24 "I want a brewskii!", 26 60-Across at the airport?, 29 Passports, e.g., 30 Yellowstone herd, 32 Connections, 33 Bae or beau, 34 Bad-mouth, 36 Juicy bits?, 37 60-Across at a royal residence?, 40 Winter forecast, 42 With intensity, 43 Domino indentation, 44 One more than bi-her/hers, 46 ___/her/hers, 47 Beanies or beret, 50 60-Across on the ranch?, 53 Usually solitary cephalopods, 55 Like hot caramel, 56 Green prefix, 58 Greek I, 59 Tijuana street food, 60 Individual controlling access, 63 Synagogue cabinets, 64 "Once ___ a time ...", 65 Oklahoma setting of HBO's "Watchmen", 66 High-pH substance, 67 "Step right up!", 68 Squabbles, 3 Flowers named for the Greek rainbow goddess, 4 Insignificant, 5 Volleyball move before a spike, 6 Acronym encompassing chem and calc, 7 Tag line?, 8 "When I was your ___ ...", 9 Amanda who became the first National Youth Poet Laureate, 10 Jitterbug dance style, 11 One may sense saltiness or sweetness, 12 Guatemala's language, in Guatemala, 13 "How come?", 18 Rice dish with saffron, 23 Small batteries, 25 More than a bite, 27 Burns a bit, 28 Summit, 31 Take effect, 34 Gaping mouth, 35 "Golly!", 36 Ask too much, 37 Candy with the tagline "Taste the explosion!", 38 Remove, as a bra, 39 Name found in "kale chips", 40 Banana Boat stat, 41 Falls across a border?, 44 Not just any, 45 Laser cannon's smaller relative, 47 Big fuss, 48 Exam for some H.S. seniors, 49 Bejeweled crowns, 51 Bullwinkle, for one, 52 Digital ___ (break from screen time), 54 Render unavailable, 57 Penny, 59 Key beside Q, 61 Imitate, 62 UFO pilots, maybe

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2022 A Call to Aquarian Altruism



Like a dog in a panda suit, emotions have a way of disguising themselves as other emotions. In today's costume party of feelings, pride goes as anger; anger goes as depression; arrogance goes as insecurity; disappointment goes as stoicism. Challenge yourself to think the best of others, as we are all prone to the deception of feelings.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). To honor your fire, give yourself permission to be as intense as you want to be about certain things within particular boundaries outlined by you. Direct your own controlled burn.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You can't always choose who has access to your energy, time and attention, but you can certainly instate boundaries to keep you focused on what's important to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're not the same person you were. Because you've changed, the people you attract will be different, too. There's a learning curve here, so your social life becomes something of an adventure.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Aristotle said nature does nothing uselessly. Reasons may be mysterious to you but keep observing. Eventually, you'll understand why things are in their current state and how you can evolve them in your chosen direction.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's hard to be a lighter, brighter person while anchored to a sinking ship. Obviously, the first order of business is to free yourself. So, what's it going to take?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're a quick study today. Others could get jealous of your pace, but don't slow down. They'll get over it just as soon as they see a benefit to themselves in it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have a keen eye for communication coming from the subconscious. You detect people's vulnerabilities, their wants and fears, their lies and embellishments.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Not all that glitters is gold, and sometimes stardust looks like plain old dirt. Today you'll use your talent for figuring out the true value of things regardless of their shine.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your attitude of gratitude compounds your good fortune. The more appreciative you are, the luckier you feel. The luckier you feel, the luckier you get.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Not everyone is gifted with your stellar powers of communication. It's easy to get frustrated by those who won't say what they mean or mean what they say. Finding patience is a worthwhile challenge.

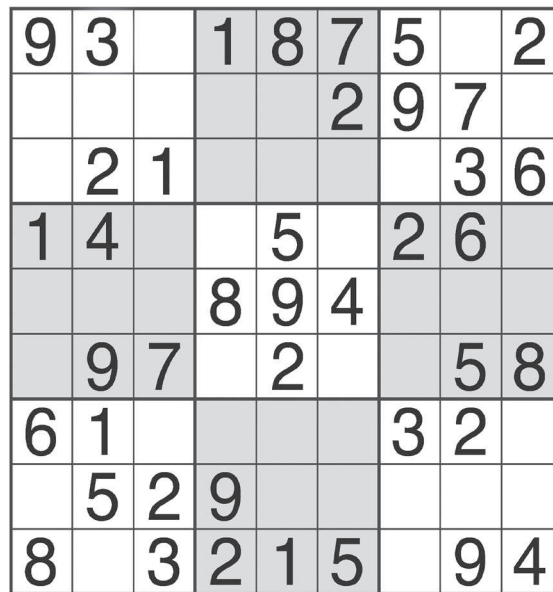
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's rare, but it happens. Sometimes you really do feel like the world is one big, welcoming community. Just liking to be around people is a contribution that lifts spirits.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Things get overwhelming when you take them too seriously. To relax, try letting your thoughts pass through your mind like water, as though there's nothing to grab onto and if you tried, it would only slip through your fingers.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 31). You'll rack up achievements big and small but no matter what happens you'll remember your roots, credit your team and appreciate your good fortune. Helping family solve problems lends a strong sense of purpose and many unexpected joys. New hobbies are favored to connect you with fresh sources of inspiration. Taurus and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 10, 4, 33 and 9.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

