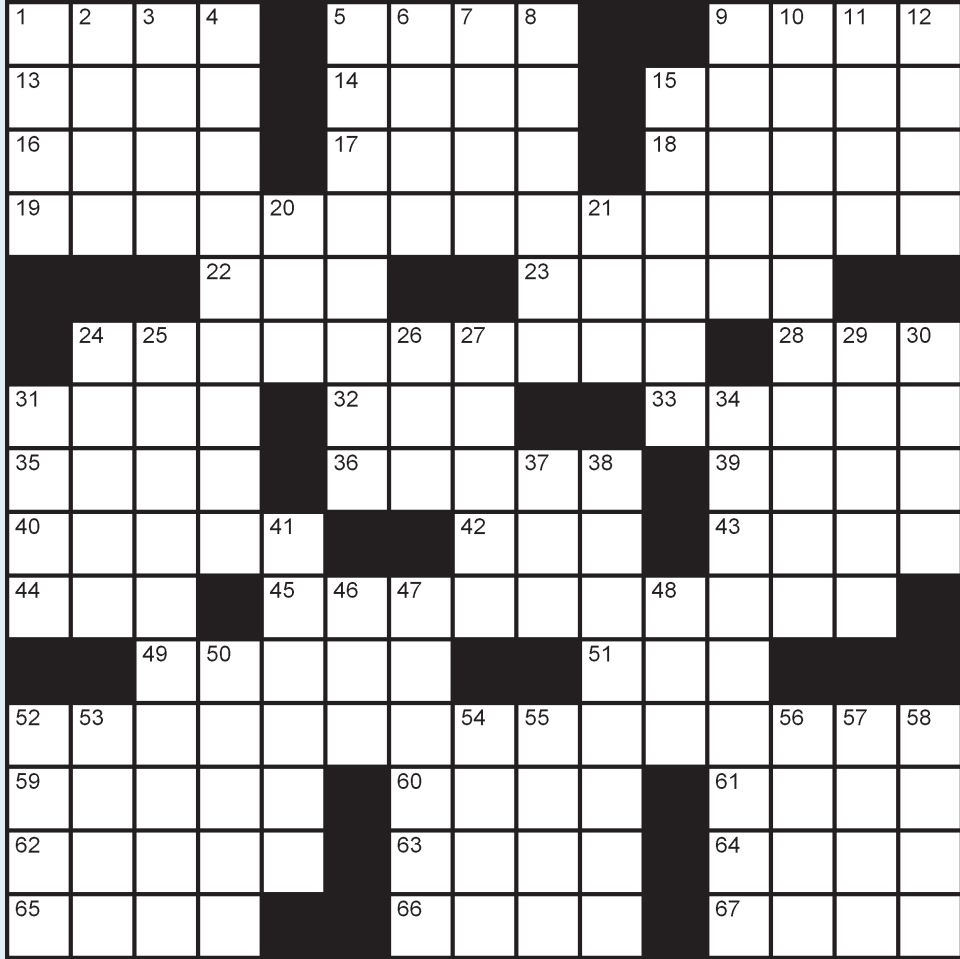


Poof! by Adrian Johnson

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Shoot an air ball, perhaps; 5 Airport vehicles; 9 Black jack, half the time; 13 Wild way to run; 14 Tons; 15 Come about; 16 Garment worn in Bengaluru; 17 Regan's regal father; 18 West pointers, sometimes?; 19 Dry run of a precollege exam; 22 Strive (for); 23 Took a risk; 24 Radiologists' imaging devices; 28 Just ___ water; 31 Drag queens' neckwear; 32 Down Under hopper; 33 Undesirable low interest?; 35 In a position to help; 36 Dog collar attachment; 39 Skin concern for a teen; 40 Head lock?; 42 Brew that may be hazy; 43 Let off steam; 44 Largest ethnic group in China; 45 Moment of liftoff, usually; 49 Tire or escalator part; 51 Styling product; 52 Magician's feat, and a hint to the starts of 19-, 24- and 45-Across; 59 Behind the times; 60 271 square miles, for Micronesia; 61 Rights advocacy grp.; 62 Curling item; 63 Lender's holding; 64 Utah national park; 65 Pulls, as a vehicle; 66 Seasoning in savory lassi; 67 Upper hand; DOWN: 1 Dough for tamales; 2 Big Apple purchase?; 3 Put into groups; 4 Tickets to access the slopes; 5 Fried squid dish; 6 Name that anagrams to "Clea"; 7 Word after "life" or "dream"; 8 Big step; 9 Fruit-shipping box; 10 One may do the Macarena; 11 Slicing and dicing, e.g., for a knife; 12 Inferior to none; 15 Opposed (to); 20 "___ Flair Drip" (2018 rap hit); 21 Toy that may be remote-controlled; 24 Snake with a hood; 25 Grade school variety performance; 26 Nonverbally agree; 27 Out of office; 29 "I haven't the faintest idea"; 30 Food regimen; 31 Relaxing soak; 34 Practice self-absorbed introspection; 37 Kwik-E-Mart operator; 38 Saturn, for one; 41 Unforested Eurasian plain; 46 Dora's navigational companion; 47 Exemplary standards; 48 Meditative sect of Buddhism; 50 Falls in drops; 52 Bite the ___ (lose); 53 Really digging; 54 Piece that a diva practices; 55 Film spool; 56 The "A" of DNA; 57 Plumber's woe; 58 Make less sharp, say?

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2022 Pisces Season Opens



Welcome to Pisces season, a soulful solar sojourn to summarize the lessons of the past 11 months. Pisces is the final sign of the zodiac and an amalgamation of all the rest. Pisces sun message one: We cannot wake up and know who we are, as we are always building it. Much remains unreconciled, an indication of being alive.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Whether the sun comes after the storm or the storm comes after the sunny stretch just depends on when you got to the place. Just make sure you're prepared for the full range of weather, and all is well.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your busy mind whirs with projects to finish, places to see, people to meet. You are not working in a linear fashion, so don't expect linear results. Your flaws are beautiful too, if you'll only believe it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will feel a sense of empathy for mankind. You'll greet people like they're long-lost friends. The special treatment is greatly appreciated. An opportunity will arise from your ability to connect.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In the same way a good comic doesn't have to tell the right audience when to laugh or explain why things are funny, you shouldn't have to lay out instructions for how to love you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The animals don't own mirrors, nor do they care to. Knowing what you look like in the thrust of the action is largely irrelevant to the experience of living it. Self-awareness has no place in an experience of unity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've been working steadily to repay a debt. You're not there yet but congratulate yourself on the progress you made. A small reward is in order, for the sake of morale.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Adults often parent themselves in the same way they were parented as children. This isn't the only way to go. You can also adjust your inner parenting style to suit the life you have now and the person you want to be.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). An artful brag is like shorthand. It helps people understand where you're at right now in your life and in your head. They'll get it. You'll have a blast when they meet you there.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). As an adaptable idealist, you can find the highest, most fitting form of any situation. You'll work with unexpected elements. It's funny how a pinch of something terrible can enhance the entire scene.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Intimacy depends on maintaining the right amount of tension in a connection; being comfortable enough to let the guard down, but still unfamiliar enough that discovery is a thrilling risk.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Life heals. You can know everything about the healing process, or you can know nothing about it. The healing will be the same whether you watch it or instead watch television while it's happening.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). While you do not want to be too serious, if you are to meet a goal by next week, you must take measures. Don't let up. You can still have fun while guarding your time well.

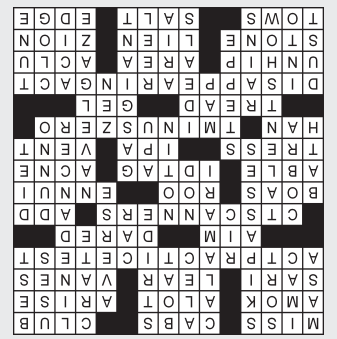
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 18). The dreamer in you will fall in love many times this year, with people, and places, projects and pets... oh heavenly reciprocation! As you follow plans with diligence, potentials will be realized, fantasies fleshed out, money made. What makes your senses come alive will also cure your soul. Better eating lifts energy. Cancer and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 1, 11, 50 and 13.

Universal SUDOKU

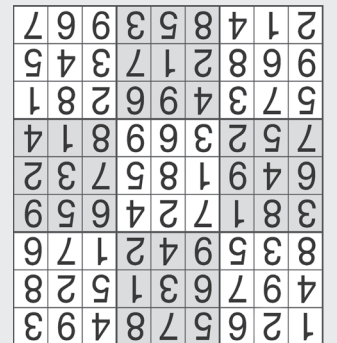
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

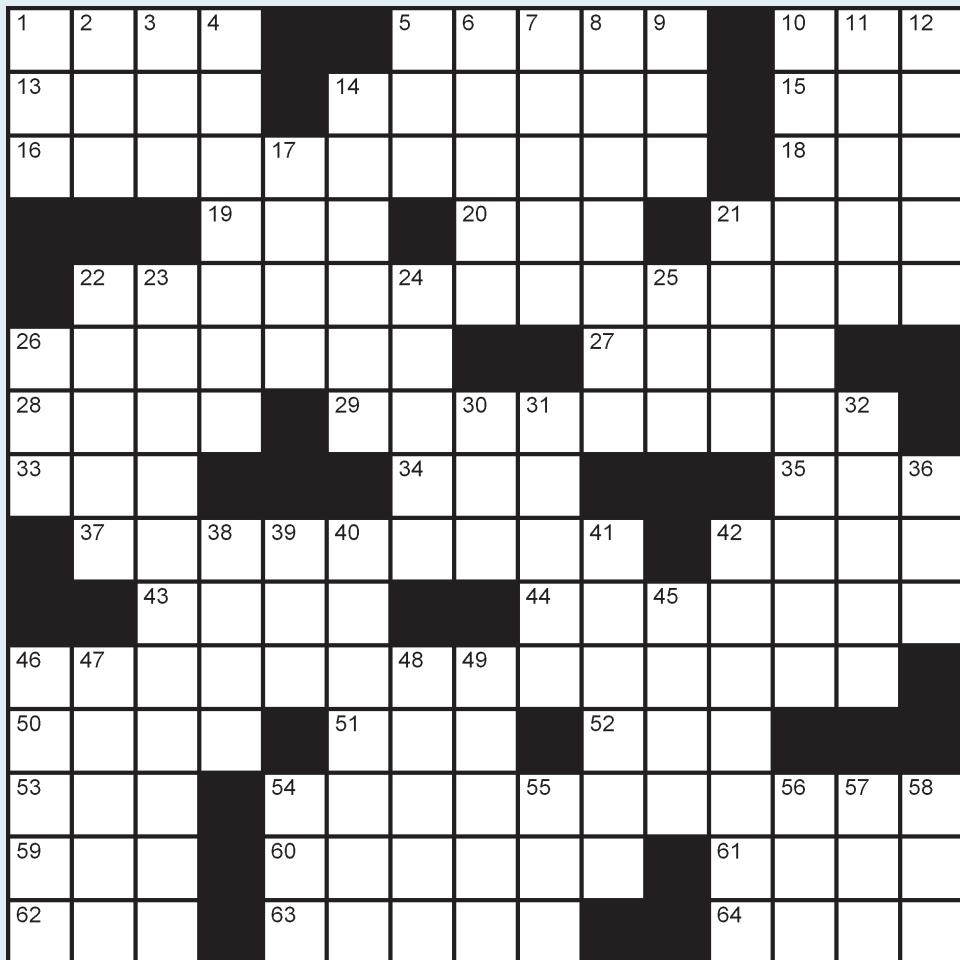


SOLUTIONS



Turn! Turn! Turn! by Ross Trudeau

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Covered the tab; 5 One way to become a parent; 10 Loops in, briefly; 13 Prefix with "directional"; 14 Got the standard score in golf; 15 With it; 16 Turns off; 18 "___ got a bad feeling about this"; 19 Letter before upsilon; 20 Basis for the Apple Watch's platform; 21 Running shoe brand; 22 Turns on; 26 Less populated; 27 Crystal balls, e.g.; 28 ___ Stix (sour candy); 29 Turns up; 33 Black History Month in the U.S.; 34 Org. for athletes who hit a puck; 35 Friendly beginning?; 37 Turns down; 42 "Zounds!"; 43 Close to; 44 Sullied reputation; 46 Turns out; 50 Break in relations; 51 Madre's sister; 52 Tire gauge letters; 53 "Ramy" actor Mahershala; 54 Turns in; 59 Butterfly catcher; 60 "Just watch me!"; 61 Cuisine with pad see ew; 62 OB-GYNs, e.g.; 63 He goes "Ho ho ho!"; 64 Pepper's partner; DOWN: 1 Group quarantining together; 2 Coy reply to "You must be joking"; 3 Helpful connections; 4 Relating to food plans; 5 "That feels heavenly!"; 6 Sink outlet; 7 "But you seem to think otherwise..."; 8 Where to buy mice ... or squeaky mice; 9 QB's successes; 10 Official whisky of Manchester United; 11 ___ duty (voting, etc.); 12 Say something; 14 Windows fan, often; 17 Catches; 21 "Dancing Queen" band; 22 Worked as a secret agent; 23 Monetary deductions and credits; 24 Name that anagrams to "Arnie"; 25 Before, before; 26 Abbr. on a beachgoer's bottle; 30 Sounds of understanding; 31 First-year West Pointer; 32 Cons are pros at running them; 36 41-Down's "___ to Aphrodite"; 38 "___ la vie!"; 39 Rodent in some Banksy art; 40 Sexy writing; 41 Famed poet of Lesbos; 42 Starts private work?; 45 One tablet, maybe; 46 Word before "opening" or "entrance"; 47 Fuel ship; 48 Towering figure; 49 Lacks; 54 He/him/___; 55 Org. with a 3.4 oz limit for liquids; 56 "So THAT'S the answer!"; 57 ___ Poly Pomona; 58 Baby fox

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022 A Libra Lunar Promise



In the early stages of Pisces season, we're drawn to investigate the soul's health, soothe its aches, broaden its reach and strengthen its potential. These aims are accomplished by serving others, which is the route of fulfillment. The Libra moon promises to harmonize relationships for those willing to clear the air of past grievances.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The reasons are not immediately obvious, but upon reflection you'll realize you have much to be merry about. Indeed, celebration is in order. Let friends in on your good fortune. Joy multiplies when you divide it among them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your home is more than just a place to live; it is also an investment in your future. You'll continue to add value to this investment in the weeks to come. Decisions hang in the balance. Those close to you will advise you well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's no shame in your game. You don't take anything personally. It's about learning, not about looking good in front of others. A lack of self-consciousness will allow you to gain useful skills quickly.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's just simple math, nothing complicated. Double your chances of winning by playing twice. You're bound to hit a jackpot sooner or later if you keep playing. In today's case, the game is love.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A gloriously built ship can be rugged enough to sail rough seas for decades but let enough water in and it will sink. Human minds are similar vessels. Keep negativity out, lest it drag you to the ocean's bottom.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). What's more annoying than a person who knows more about your subject of expertise than you do? Answer: Someone who revels in it. Keep this in mind the next time you're in the opposite position.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). As with water, these elements cannot be casually inhaled. You must understand the danger to experience the beauty. Protect yourself. Take a deep breath before your immersion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). People either make improvements or they make excuses. Whenever you find yourself making an excuse, stop and seize the opportunity for rapid growth. Humility is the key. You'll put your ego aside and learn.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Friendship is about more than discovering the other person. It's also about discovering yourself. Through your social efforts you'll get to know a lovely person -- you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Egoism is at the root of intolerance. To condemn egoism is to share it. In today's situation you can rise above the pettiness by quietly minding your own business.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your tolerance for a person's behavior is exactly what keeps the dynamic going. Put your foot down and you'll be amazed at how fast things change.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Despite our best efforts, we cannot in one lifetime visit all that we hope to see or learn all that we desire to know. That won't keep you from going full-tilt into today's ambitions.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 19). Exciting discoveries are in store. You'll have reason to consult experts, then become one. Among a diverse group of influences you'll thrive, establish a niche and create income streams. You'll contribute significantly to a dear one's success. You'll also find a way to cross off one of your more expensive bucket list items. Taurus and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 40, 20, 2 and 17.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



SOLUTIONS

