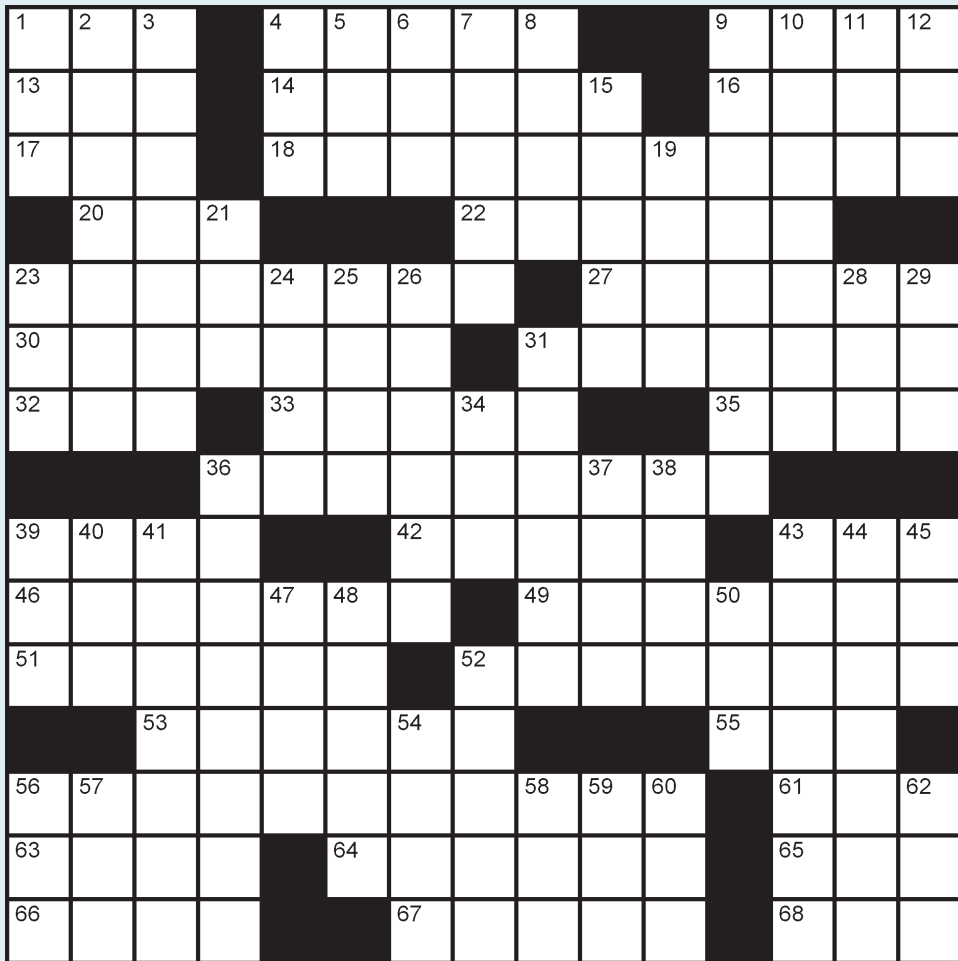


Upfront Payment by Prasanna Keshava

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS
1 Pick, with "for"
4 Discard, slangily
9 Alliance of nations
13 Ewe call
14 Became unpleasant, as relations
16 Handle with \_\_\_
17 Miff
18 \*Five-star lodging
20 New Year in Hanoi
22 Part of Ali Baba's password
23 \*Himalayan seasoning
27 Fish hawk
30 Car that can't be followed?
31 Already set up
32 Cunning
33 Theme
35 College near Duke
36 Like gross income, and where either word in each starred clue's answer can go
39 \_\_\_ code (three-digit number)
42 Word after "political" or "party"
43 Psychic ability, briefly
46 Good wizard in "The Hobbit"
49 Dubai, e.g.
51 Bibliographic list ender
52 \*Hot drink with a colorful name
53 Be in accord
55 Taste tentatively
56 \*Auctions of homes' contents
61 Ethical hackers' grp.
63 Date question?
64 Strong urge
65 AAA rescue
66 Unites
67 Gush forth
68 The \_\_\_ and only
DOWN
1 Kimono belt
2 \_\_\_ lunar eclipse
3 Highly impressed with
4 Internet connection letters
5 Due acknowledgment?
6 Formal wear, informally
7 Pie base
8 Not elsewhere
9 A group of vitamins
10 Like indirect thinking
11 Mine material
12 Toon still
15 Big name in vacuums
19 Hinged plate on a door
21 Ref's ring ruling
23 Machines with Windows, often
24 Not all
25 Starting from
26 Give a reprieve
28 Environmental prefix
29 Yearning
31 Words that intensify "rarely"
34 One of the Gershwins
36 Results of bankers' lending mistakes
37 Heavy book
38 India who sang "Voyage to India"
39 What one can do gracefully
40 Tattletale
41 Established by law
43 Erode bit by bit
44 Term for a relative that can also be a two-word phrase
45 Podded legume
47 "\_\_\_ No Sunshine" (Bill Withers song)
48 Unlike slip-ons
50 O.R. staffers
52 Comprehend
54 Applications
56 "Yuck!"
57 Pronoun for Indira Gandhi
58 Lucy of "Chicago"
59 Go astray
60 Dip below the horizon
62 \_\_\_-inspiring

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2022 Mercury Opposes Jupiter



Should you go it alone or seek complementary companionship? Are you better as the solo act or as a member of the band? These are the questions as Mercury, in the sign of partnership, opposes Jupiter in the fiercely independent realm of Aries. Much depends on your vision. If it's very strong, do it alone. If it's fuzzy, the group will give it parameters.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's clear that someone is special to you. There's no one else who can quite fill this person's shoes. Your time together has a unique quality to it. Your time apart also has a unique quality to it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're curious about people, which keeps your tasks interesting. You'll keep wondering what motivates others. You'll be surprised at what you learn by asking a few good questions. It doesn't take many, it just takes the right ones.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As members of the kick-line know, everyone working in the same timing, energy and movement creates a powerful effect. A dancer who's able to kick higher than the others will, in the name of conformity, save that for another dance.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Past pain can be like a virus on the hard drive of your consciousness. It may seem harmless enough. But until it is repaired, it will lie dormant, waiting for the right moment to erupt. This is a good time to start working through it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're not getting enough pleasure, relaxation and attention. It can feel strange to ask for these things or go out of your way to make them happen. On the bright side, simple adjustments may be all you need to restore balance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Action creates energy. But if you think without making a move, those thoughts will use energy without making more. So even if an action is a little hard or tiring, it will ultimately energize you more than if you did nothing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Where there are groups of people, there are cultures. Neighborhoods, families, companies, classrooms -- all come with customs and rules to learn, use, break or ignore. You'll navigate a new culture very carefully today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Love sends you on a mission. Your heart carries a question and your mind finds a way to answer it. Take care of yourself along the way because this journey takes work and you'll be stretching and growing to get it done.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When new people are around, you feel new too. When you're deciding who to add to your world, consider the version of yourself you tend to be around that person. Let that information factor into your decision.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may feel unsure of your place. It's not important that you fit in completely, just that you have a sense of getting along in your give-and-take. Focus on how well your contribution serves the needs of others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What costs more isn't necessarily worth more. You'll investigate and appraise to make sure you're making a sound deal. Thoroughness will matter. There's a temptation to make a snap decision, but this would be a mistake.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Playing together can build bonds, though working relationships are even better for this. The structure and rules around work make it a natural environment for getting to know people and building trust.

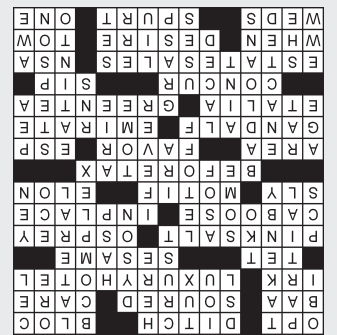
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 2). Your life is growing in an adventurous direction. You'll wish widely and wildly, then narrow your options to one very meaningful purpose and work toward it for most of the year. Though you don't focus on the financial aspect of a job, it flourishes anyway, a natural byproduct of changing people's lives for the better. Libra and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 1, 11, 38 and 8.

Universal SUDOKU

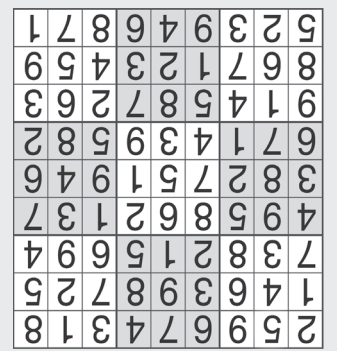
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

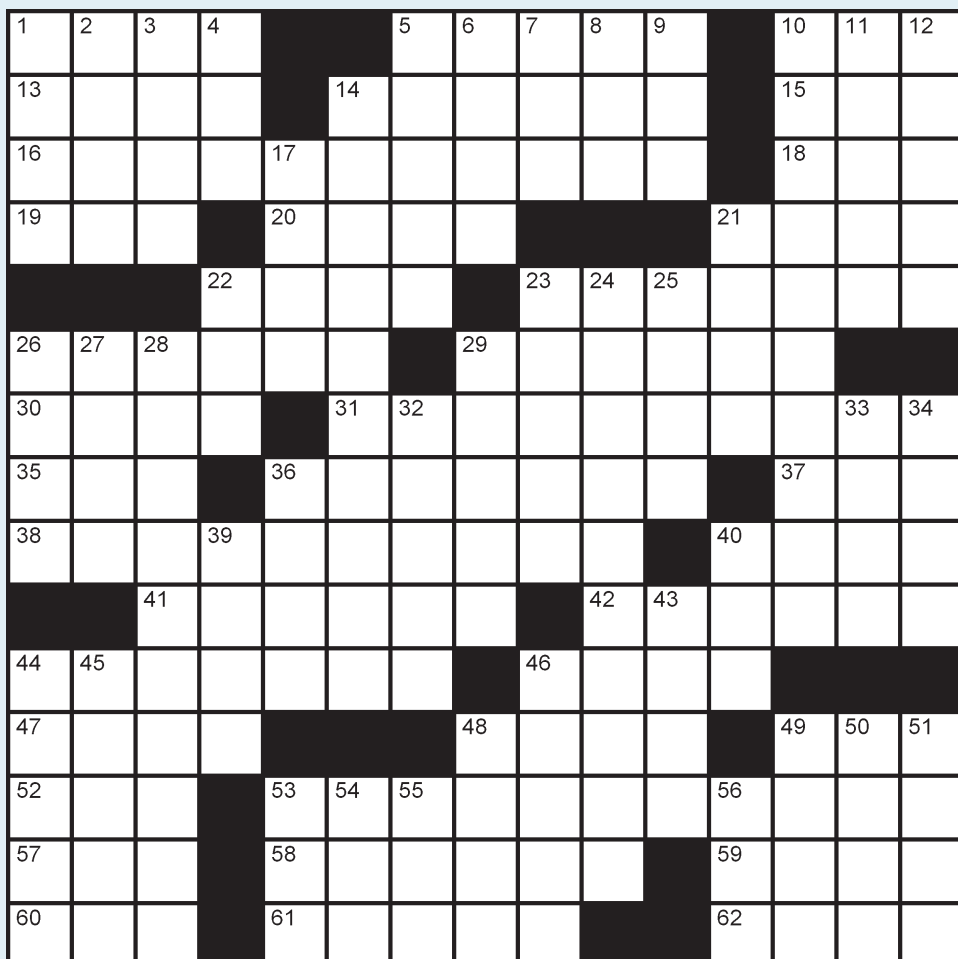


SOLUTIONS



Switch Jobs by Jared Goudsmit

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS
1 Pride Month letters
5 Craze
10 Sheryl Sandberg's deg.
13 "Tragic"
14 Female foxes
15 Word after "soup" or "spray"
16 Old-timey timepiece (In this clue's answer, see letters 7-4)
18 Food additive that may cause vivid dreams
19 "A snake!"
20 Looking grim
21 Cry like a banshee
22 Pixar film about a boy named Miguel
23 Rhythm of speech
26 Protect financially
29 Flounders (about)
30 Actor Damon
31 Softener, at times? (letters 9-6)
35 De Armas in "The Gray Man"
36 Princess's headpiece
37 Spanish cheer
38 Dessert made with a vegetable (letters 8-4)
40 Earthly angel's backdrop
41 "\_\_\_ after me ..."
42 Mocked
44 Quality of dry humor
46 "How unfortunate"
47 Follow, as a warning
48 Batman : Wayne :: Superman : \_\_\_
49 Veer quickly
52 Good name for a botanist?
53 Carbon emissions goal (letters 7-3)
57 Regret
58 Babbling streams
59 Loads and loads
60 Was in charge
61 Birds in a murder
62 "\_\_\_, you owe me a Coke!"
DOWN
1 Shoestring
2 Apt rhyme for "goo"
3 Support financially
4 "I'm disappointed!"
5 Itty-bitty: Prefix
6 Spinning car part
7 Lead-in to "Latin"
8 "Food, \_\_\_" (2008 agribusiness documentary)
9 Request
10 Large, tacky homes
11 Elementary
12 A 100-degree one is obtuse
14 Aye-or-nay processes
17 Skunk's smell, e.g.
21 Connect, as copper
22 "Stop filming!"
23 Falling dumbbell's sound
24 Gatherings in a 12-step program
25 Carnivore \_\_\_ (controversial food plan)
26 Apple product since 1998
27 Mom's mom
28 Ever the optimist
29 Defy gravity
32 Aquatic predators in a pod
33 Sunburn balm
34 Raunchy
36 Deal with difficulty
39 Tear apart
40 Never \_\_\_ never
43 "At Last" singer James
44 Spin rapidly
45 "Side by Side by Sondheim," for one
46 Secretly looks
48 "I \_\_\_ a guy ..."
49 Pasta that's totally tubular!
50 Cosmetics giant that sells Glimmersticks
51 Group after boomers
53 "America's Got Talent" network
54 Be fallible
55 Excessively
56 \_\_\_ Mahal

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2022 Moon Winks to Word Power



According to Shakespeare, a rose by another name would still smell as sweet. Science suggests otherwise. A rose named, for instance, "rancid garbage" could alter a sniffer's perception enough to give a lower rating to the scent. Words are powerful tools. The current cosmic lineup encourages healthy respect and strategic use of the tool.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's so much pedantry and minutiae to deal with that the very idea of creating an enjoyable experience seems far-fetched. Your own delight is not too much to ask for. Make it a priority.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The goal of today's exercise is to achieve results through collaboration. You will interview, observe, interpret, negotiate, compromise and agree. By working together, you'll accomplish what neither of you could do on your own.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll enter a foreign realm where you don't know the particulars of the language, what the signs point to or how to use the tools. A guide can help, but what helps the most is your patient determination to take it one step at a time.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People agitate you. It's nothing personal. You could even think of it as an opportunity to rise to the occasion. It's like they are whipping up a kind of light goodness in you. You become like a fluffy meringue on the lemon pie of life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). What goes disguised as a complex and nuanced problem is actually quite simple. It boils down to having the guts to do what falls in line with your own values, regardless of the opinion of others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Emotions are not to be overcome so much as accepted. Feelings arise uninvited but if you reject them, they won't leave. So let them in and decide what to do about it. You always have the option to do nothing at all.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There are some things you don't have to work at. You love the subject and when engaged in its study or practice you radiate joy, as though this is what you were made for. Do what it takes to get more of this in your world.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're trying to accomplish something that requires you to think harder and feel deeper. It will help you to clear space and time so you can really get lost in the subject without the shallow distractions at the surface of life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When people are wondering what you're going to say next, you're in a good position. You have their attention and that's a moment to take advantage of. If you have further surprises, intrigues and delights, you'll be golden.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The move only feels risky when it's new. When you take the same chance repeatedly, eventually you get comfortable with what was once frightening to you. This is what's happening now. You're gaining skill and courage.

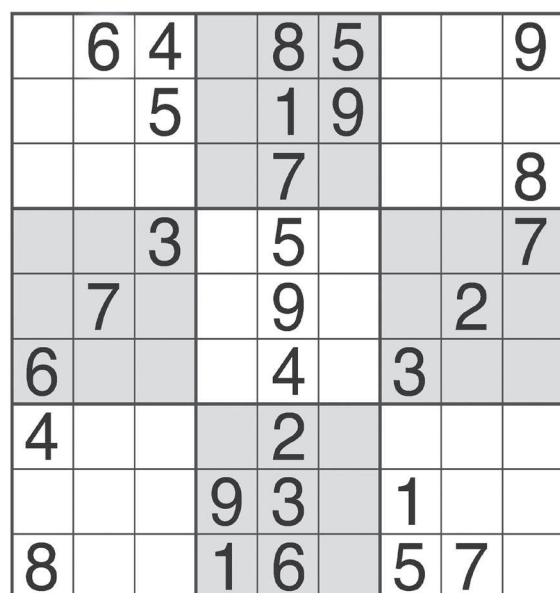
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Most people deal with noise by making more noise. To be heard over the cacophony one must be louder than it, right? You'll try something else -- a form of communication that speaks beyond what sound waves can carry.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You will remember what you learn slowly. Don't stress over large undertakings. Take them in small chunks so they cannot overwhelm you. Take regular breaks too. When you put the work down, the learning seeps in.

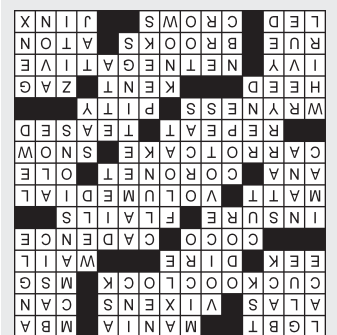
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 3). You'll produce the spark that lights a fire in people. And your warmth makes people feel seen and important. Many connections will come together, and you'll execute a grand plan. You'll surf a sea change at work and love where you land. Getting a lump sum all at once allows you a splurge you've wanted for years. Gemini and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 17, 3, 38, 15 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

