|  |  |  |  | 7 | 2 |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | 5 |  | 6 |  | 1 |  |  |
| 4 | 2 |  |  |  |  |  | 9 |  |
|  | 5 | 1 | 2 |  |  |  |  | 4 |
| 2 |  | 6 |  |  |  |  | 5 | 9 |
|  |  |  | 5 |  | 6 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 9 | 5 |  | 1 |  |
| 7 |  |  |  |  | 3 | 8 |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  | 8 |  | 9 |  |  |

Fiendish No 14,842

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | 6 | 1 |  | 9 | 5 |  |  |
|  | 8 | 2 |  |  |  | 4 | 9 |  |
|  | 2 |  |  | 3 |  |  | 7 |  |
|  |  |  | 8 | 2 | 4 |  |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 6 |
|  | 6 |  | 4 |  | 5 |  | 2 |  |
|  | 3 | 1 | 2 |  | 7 | 9 | 4 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost $£ 1$ plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 03332023390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

The Times Quick Cryptic No 2652 by Alex


## Across

1 Following direction to banquet (5)

7 Abandoned cat in Split (9)
9 Bird has years in channel (5)
10 Tips sauce spilling into speciality galactic travel wear (9)

11 Beast the solver heard (3)
12 Unusual dictionary missing
"Y" in index (9)
14 Tzar rages about astronomer (9)

16 Animal pack (3)
18 Fires again as rule before it ends heartlessly (9)
20 Put out partly like Victoria (5)
21 Priory in control, holding on (9)

22 Modelled wearing shiny fabric (5)

## Down

1 Number diagram (6)
2 Loan literati lively literary device (12)
3 Go with con, arriving at meeting (8)

4 Placed within popular hospital room (6)
5 Actuaries oddly missing fix (4)
6 Some parrot I detested upset journalist (6)
8 Set off worktop feature (12)
13 Short, positive response returned by son shows respect (8)

14 Economize with second wave (6)

15 Spot woman's instrument (6)
17 Spoil number for creature (6)
19 Prying thus back in New York (4)

## Suko No 4092



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

## Train Tracks No 2221



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.

## Word watch David Parfitt

## Tantalus

a A mythical abyss
beneath Hades
b A mass of grey matter in the brain c A case for displaying bottles

## Trommel

a A device for cleaning minerals
b A restraining strap or shackle
c A raised knob on a saddle

## Meline

a Resembling honey b Pertaining to badgers c A synthetic resin

## Poker Byron Jacobs

## Counterfeited

There are many frustrating experiences in poker and being counterfeited is up there with the worst. Counterfeiting occurs when a card comes that devalues your hand. We are familiar with being outdrawn, of course, but counterfeiting is somewhat different. It's particularly irritating because it involves Villain overtaking us without even improving their hand.

An example. You have 7-7 and the board is J-J-9. Villain has A-K so you are ahead with two pair (sevens and nines) whereas Villain only has one pair. The turn brings another nine: J-J-9-9. Suddenly your pair is counterfeited and rendered worthless. Now both you and Villain have two pair but your pair of sevens is useful only to provide a seven kicker whereas Villain has an ace kicker. Villain has not even hit one of their cards to overtake you. It feels as though you have been beaten by default.

As with all frustrating experiences in poker you need to keep your head. Consider the following hand. You have $K *-8 ;$ on the button and the player before you opens. This player loves to get involved and always wants to be playing pots. They are also a bit of a "station" (see articles February 14,21 and 28) and will often stick around when they should fold. You want this Villain to yourself and so (correctly) 3-bet to chase the blinds away and engineer the profitable set-up of heads-up against Villain.

The blinds obediently fold and Villain calls. You are both deep stacked and the flop is a lovely $\mathrm{K} v-10 \diamond-8 \wedge$, giving you two pair in a situation where you are likely to get paid off. You bet, around 80 per cent of the pot, and Villain calls. Life is sweet but then the turn brings $\mathrm{K} v-10-8-10 v$. Urgh.

The $10 \vee$ is horrible. You have been counterfeited and your second pair has become worthless. If Villain has K-x (where x is bigger than eight) they have now overtaken you (eg, K-Q now gives K-$\mathrm{K}-10-10-\mathrm{Q}$, whereas your $\mathrm{K}-8$ is $\mathrm{K}-\mathrm{K}-10-10-8$ ). Obviously any $10-\mathrm{x}$ Villain hand is also now winning.

More bad news as Villain leads out with a pot-sized bet. You note the 10 is a second heart meaning Villain could possibly have picked up a flush draw and be using it to apply pressure. For example, hands such as $Q v-J \vee$ or $J v-9 \vee$ have a lot of ways to improve. You therefore call and the river blanks: $\mathrm{K}_{v}$ -$10-8-10 v-2 \Delta$. Villain immediately shoves the remainder of their substantial stack in. Now what?

Many players, perhaps annoyed at being counterfeited on the turn, will call. They persuade themselves that Villain's turn and river bets are bluffs and that their kings can still be good. They will almost never be right. Villain will invariably have a $10-\mathrm{x}$ hand. The big bet on the turn was to protect this hand against the many draws out there. Being counterfeited is very frustrating. Don't let it affect your judgment.

## Winning Move



Black to play.
This position is from DudipalliKosteniuk, FIDE Online Arena 2024.

Players are often told that it is vital to control the centre. Having a secure foothold in the middle of the board will often allow a player to launch a strong attack. Here, for example, Black's attack along the g - and h -files would be unlikely to work were it not for the powerful central pawn trio. How did the game conclude?

## Codeword No 5191



ABCDEFGH I JKLMNOPQRSXXVWXYZ

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | ${ }^{12}$ | ${ }^{13} \mathbf{T}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |

Every letter in this crossword-style grid is represented by a number from 1 to 26 . Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. Yesterday's solution, right

Cluelines Stuck on Codeword? To receive 4 random clues call 09012936262 or text TIMECODE to 64343 . Calls cost $£ 1$ plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost $£ 1$ plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 09057570142 . Calls cost $£ 1$ per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 03332023390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).


[^0]
## times2 Crossword No 9507



## Across

1 Bamboo-eating mammals resembling raccoons $(3,6)$
7 Crustacean (4)
8 Medieval land workers (8)
9 Fill with disgust; uprising (6)
10 Pull grotesque faces (4)
12 Dazed feeling following sleep or drinking (10)

Solution to Crossword 9506


13 In an awkward predicament $(2,1,3,4)$
16 Acting part (4)
17 --- Mailer, US author (1923-2007) (6)
18 Act of taking control of territory by force (8)
20 Family grouping (4)
21 Ebbing and flowing liquid (9)

## Down

1 Sorry, repentant (6)
2 Severance of connection (13)
3 Carol --- Duffy, former poet laureate (3)
4 Ignore (9)
5 Collecting game $(9,4)$
6 Patch of hard skin (6)
11 Began, started (9)
14 Curly-haired dog breed (6)
15 Nearer (6)
19 Currently (3)

[^1]KenKen Medium No 6183


All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

## Futoshiki No 4731



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

## Kakuro No 3690

|  |  |  | $1$ | $1$ | 4 |  |  | $17$ | $\sqrt{39}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 16 |  |  |  | $\sqrt[3]{1}$ |  |  | $13$ |  |  | $24$ |
| 24 |  |  |  | $7 \sqrt[38]{ }$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | $40^{6}$ |  |  | $21^{16}$ |  |  | $22$ |  |  |
| 17 |  |  |  |  |  |  | $18$ |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $716$ |  |  |  |
|  | $24^{14}$ |  |  | $\sqrt[28]{8}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 21 |  |  |  |  | $6$ |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | $16{ }^{4}$ |  |  | $4{ }^{4}$ |  |  | 4 |  |
| 29 |  |  |  |  |  |  | $8$ |  |  |  |
|  | 19 |  |  | $\sqrt[3]{1}$ |  |  |  | $\sqrt[3]{8}$ |  |  |

© PUZZLER MEDIA

Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

## Quintagram(1)

Solve all five cryptic clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Nobleman almost ahead of schedule (4)

## 2 Eat loads of some grub in

Germany (5)

3 Impractical in the morning to go into nest (6)

4 Plates etc initially covered by garden feature (8)

-     -         -             -                 -                     -                         -                             - 

5 Boy at church with a gospel that's standard (9)

Brain Trainer


## Polygon



From these letters, make words of four or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the Concise Oxford Dictionary, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives. How you rate 17 words, average; 23 , good; 27 , very good; 31 , excellent

## Yesterday's answers

choker, chore, cor, core, cork, corse, erk, her, hero, hers, hoer, horse, hoser, kosher, ocher, ochre, ocker, orc, ore, rec, reck, rho, roc, rock, roe, rose, score, shocker, shore, sore

## Cell Blocks No 5074

| 10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | 2 | 2 |
| 4 |  | 10 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 4 |
|  |  | 4 |  |  | 4 |  |
| 3 | 2 |  | 2 | 2 |  |  |

Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

## Set Square No 3693



Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Killer Tricky No 9420


## Killer Deadly No 9421



As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every $3 x 3$ box contains the digits 1 to 9 . Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost $£ 1$ plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 03332023390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Times Crossword 28,893


## ACROSS

1 Sack not quite dry, a horror of mine (8)

5 Prepares to eat apple initially, backing out of it (6)
10 What Pompeii tour offers is yet to be confirmed ( $7,2,2,4$ )
11 Doorway with no steps suitable for newcomers (5-5)
13 Refuse short, brisk walk (4)
15 In a mess, having nothing for starter for lunch, so stepped out (7)
17 Intermittently fine, but regularly early on parade (7)
18 Composer has no clue, struggling at piano (7)
19 Tea for audience coming in, chef promises (7)
21 Small coin is old — chuck back (4)
22 Company rescuer talked of sleepless period $(5,5)$
25 With spread teachers until recently drink the fruit of the vine $(9,6)$
27 Sweet American lives in France, it's true (6)
28 Nuisance, a line editor introduced that holds up column (8)

## DOWN

1 In trouble receiving fine, not popular penalty (7)
2 Farm animal's light weight, not good (3)
3 Regularly meditate as exercise $(5,5)$
4 Shot at table in a crowd hasn't died (5)

6 A large number killed (4)
7 Observe work in nursery is so unpleasant (3-8)
8 Screw secures prison in terror (7)
9 Small conifer cultivated for use in court (8)
12 The missing husband gets name published regularly: perfect! (3,3,2,3)
14 Deficient punctuation unprecedented in bulletin (10)
16 Rating all the cards, or just some (8)

18 Bear contemptuous expression as high official (4-3)
20 Last to move, grabbing red bag (7)
23 One under coach protected by astute engine-driver (5)
24 Reporter's to employ these in graveyard traditionally (4)
26 Perform a sort of scan (3)

Yesterday's solution 28,892


Check today's answers by ringing 0905757 0141 by midnight. Calls cost $£ 1$ per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.SP:Spoke 03332023390.

## Solutions



Kakuro 3689

| 9 | 5 |  | 9 | 7 |  | 9 | 3 | 8 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 8 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 6 |  | 7 | 1 | 6 | 2 |
|  | 9 | 8 |  | 5 | 9 |  | 5 | 9 | 4 |
| 3 | 1 |  |  | 8 | 7 | 3 | 9 |  |  |
| 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 9 |  | 2 | 4 | 7 |  |
|  | 6 | 8 | 9 |  | 5 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 7 |
|  |  | 2 | 8 | 1 | 3 |  |  | 8 | 9 |
| 4 | 9 | 7 |  | 2 | 1 |  | 9 | 5 |  |
| 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 |  | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 9 |
| 2 | 8 | 9 | 7 |  | 4 | 3 |  | 2 | 7 |

Train Tracks 2220
Sudoku 14,838

| 2 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 9 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 6 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| 3 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| 5 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 2 |
| 4 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 8 |
| 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 3 |
| 8 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| 9 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 5 |

Sudoku 14,839

| 7 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 3 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| 4 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 2 |
| 2 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| 9 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| 6 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 8 |
| 1 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 7 |
| 8 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| 5 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 9 |

Sudoku 14,840

| 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 9 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 1 |
| 5 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 9 |
| 3 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| 7 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 4 |
| 2 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| 1 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 3 |
| 4 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 2 |

Killer 9418

| 1 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 4 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 5 |
| 7 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 9 |
| 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 4 |
| 2 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 7 |
| 8 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 |
| 6 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 8 |

## Killer 9419

| 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 5 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 7 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| 3 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| 2 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| 6 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| 5 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 6 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 9 |
| 8 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 2 |

Tetonor 457

| 87 | 40 | 111 | 30 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $3+84$ | 37+ 3 | 31×137 | $17+13$ |
| 38 | 252 | 28 | 105 |
| 37+11 | 3 $\times 184$ | 24+14 | 7-15 |
| 110 | 27 | 256 | 37 |
| 5 $\times 122$ | 22 + 5 | 16 $\times 116$ | 1\|×|37 |
| 22 | 221 | 32 | 96 |
| 15+17 | 131 $\times 17$ | 16+16 | $24 \times$ |



Futoshiki 4730

Set Square 3692


KenKen 6182

| 5 | 4 | 6 | $1$ | 3 | 2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 2 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| 12+ | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 6 |

Lexica 7354


## Today's solutions

| Concise | Cryptic | Suko 4092 | Bra |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Quintagram | Quintagram | $8 \quad 1$ | Trainer |
| 2 Weasel | 2 Binge | 25-15 | $\text { Medium } 198$ |
| 3 Badger | 3 Dreamy | 9173 | Harder 5,586 |
| 4 Wildcat | 4 Crockery | 23) |  |
| 5 Squirrel | 5 Benchmark | $5 \quad 26$ |  |

## Word watch

Tantalus (c) A case for
displaying bottles of alcohol
(Collins)
Trommel (a) A rotating
cylinder for cleaning
minerals (Chambers)
Meline (b) Pertaining to
badgers (OED)
Chess - Winning Move
1 ... Rxg2+! 2 Rxg2 (2 Kxg2
Qxh3 is immediate mate)
2 ... Qxh3+ 3 Kgl Qhl mate

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every $3 \times 3$ box contains the digits 1 to 9 . Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length.

|  |  |  | 8 |  |  | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 6 |  |  | 4 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 3 | 9 |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 5 |  |  | 2 | 3 |  |  |  | 6 | 4 | 4 |  | 7 |
|  |  | 7 |  |  |  | 3 | 9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 7 | 5 |  |  | 9 | 6 |
|  | 9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 6 |  | 1 |  | 9 |  |  |  | 7 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 7 |  | 8 | 8 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 5 |  | 6 |  | 3 |
| 2 |  |  |  | 3 | 3 | 1 | 6 |  | 4 |  |  |  |  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  | 9 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  | 9 |
|  | 3 | 5 | 7 | 7 |  | 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 5 |  |  |  | 4 | 2 |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1 | 6 |  |  |  | 2 |  |  |  |  | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 7 |  | 6 | 6 |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 |  |  |  | 8 | 8 |  | 9 | 9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 6 |  |  |  |  | 5 |  |  | 3 | 9 |  |
|  |  |  |  | 1 |  | 8 |  |  |  | 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3 | 2 |  | 4 | 1 |  |
| 7 |  | 9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 |  |  |  |  | 9 | 98 |  | 6 | 1 |  |  |  | 3 |
| 2 |  | 8 |  | 9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 5 | 5 |  | 7 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 5 |  |  |  |  | 2 | 7 |  |  | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 6 |  |
| 6 | 3 |  |  | 5 |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 9 |  | 2 |  |  | 8 |  |  |
| 5 |  | 1 |  | 3 |  |  |  |  | 7 | 8 |  |  | 7 | 1 | 1 |  |  | 9 |  | 5 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 9 |  |  | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4 | 1 |  |  |  |  |

## Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger ( $>$ ) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.
$\square$ $<$ $\square$
$\square$
$\square$
$\square$5
$\square$
$\square$3

$\square$
$\square$

$\square$
$\square$ < $\square$ $<$ $\square$
$\square$

## Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village $B$. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.


Sudoku easy

|  |  | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | 5 |  |  | 6 |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  | 3 | 5 |  | 1 | 6 |  |
|  | 1 | 6 | 8 |  |  |  | 5 | 2 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4 |
|  | 4 | 7 | 5 |  |  |  | 9 | 6 |
| 3 |  |  | 2 | 7 |  | 6 | 8 |  |
| 6 | 2 |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 8 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Killer gentle

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every $3 \times 3$ box contains the digits 1 to 9 . Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.


## Suko



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

## Codeword

Every letter in the crossword-style grid, right, is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded.

## Mini Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3 x 2 box contains the digits 1 to 6

Solutions in tomorrow's Times?



ABCDEFGHIJKYMNOPQRSTUXWXXZ

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 14 | 15 | ${ }^{16} \mathbf{Y}$ | 17 | 18 | ${ }^{19} \mathbf{V}$ | 20 | ${ }^{21}$ | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |

## Yesterday＇s solutions

SAMURAI

| 8 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 8 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 4 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 76 |  |  |  | 2 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 5 |  |  |
| 4 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 89 |  |  | 6 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 7 |  |  |
| 2 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 64 |  |  | 1 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 8 |  |  |
| 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 2 |  |  | 5 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 |  |  |
| 6 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 5 |  |  | 3 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 6 |  |  |
| 9 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 1 |  |  |
| 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 47 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 9 |  |  |
| 7 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 8 | 84 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 7 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 |  | 9 | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 3 | 5 | 59 | 7 | 2 | 1 |  | 4 | 8 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 |  | 8 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 5 |  |  |
| 8 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 45 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 16 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 1 |  |  |
| 2 | 4 | 1 | 16 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 75 | 2 | 6 | 3 |  | 1 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 |  |  |
| 9 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 72 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 41 |  |  | 7 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 5 |  |  | 1 |
| 5 | 1 | 3 | 39 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 27 |  |  | 5 |  | 9 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 3 |  |  |
| 4 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 89 |  |  | 2 |  | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 |  |  |
| 3 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 62 |  |  | 1 |  | 3 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 2 |  | 5 |
| 6 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 37 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 54 |  |  | 9 |  | 2 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 7 |  | 3 |
| 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 8 |  |  | 8 |  | 5 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 4 |  |  |

SUDOKU

| 1 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 3 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 5 |
| 4 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 1 |
| 6 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 9 |
| 7 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| 9 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
| 2 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| 5 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| 8 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 6 |

KILLER

| 2 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 7 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 7 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 8 |
| 8 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| 3 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 6 |
| 5 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 2 |
| 9 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| 4 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 3 |
| 1 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| 6 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 9 |


| 9 | 7 | 1 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 6 | 27 | 21 | 8 |
| 6 | 5 | 8 |  |
| 3 | 18 | 19 | 2 |

MINI SUDOKU

| 4 | 2 | $\mathbf{5}$ | 3 | $\mathbf{6}$ | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 3 | 6 | 1 | 2 | $\mathbf{4}$ |  |
| $\mathbf{6}$ | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | $\mathbf{4}$ |
| 5 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | 6 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | $\mathbf{3}$ | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 |

TRAIN TRACKS


FUTOSHIKI


CODEWORD


## THE 造䨋並TIMES


[^0]:    Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

[^1]:    Need help with today's puzzle? Call 09057570143 to check the answers. Calls cost $£ 1$ per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 03332023390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

