

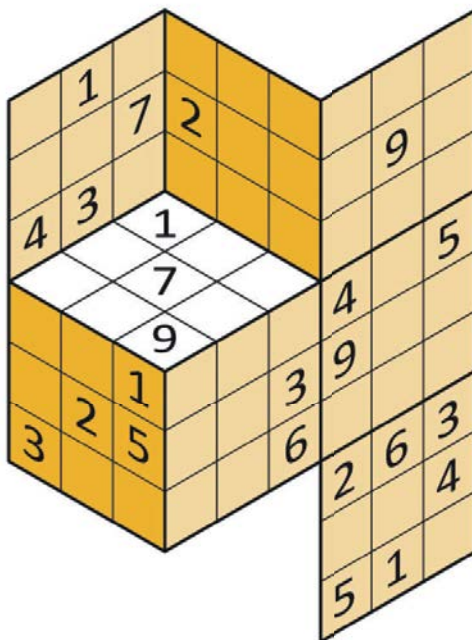
Samurai Sudoku No 921 — Hard

4			5		1			5		7	9	6	
3	2								5		4	8	3
9	1		2	7						4	1		2
		3		6	8			7	4			5	9
3								8					7
2			5	3				9	5	8	3		1
	1	7	8	2			6			8	9		
2		9	6		1			5		3		8	4
	7		2							6			
				2	7								3
				1		8							
				3		6	4						
										3		5	
7	8		2					3		1	4		9
		8	7			6			2	6	5	4	
		5	3	2	6				9	2			5
9				4									1
8				9	3			7	6		1		
4	6												
8		9	5					1		7		9	5
3	1	2		6								2	8
5	9		4										4
								2	6				

Tredoku

No 1835 — Medium

Tredoku is similar to Sudoku: the digits 1 to 9 must appear once only in each 3x3 box and in each line of nine consecutive cells. However, since the puzzle is three-dimensional, the lines may be straight or bent around angles. Follow each line's direction in search of clues.



Square Routes®

No 268 — Hard

Ian Simpson & Richard Heald

			*	*
*		*		
*			*	
	*		*	*
		*		

CELLINI
DONATELLO
KAPOOR
KOONS
PLENSA
RODIN
SCOPAS

Put one letter in each cell so that each word on the right can be spelt out by moving from cell to cell without using diagonal moves. You can use a cell more than once in a word (including backtracking into a cell you've just used), but double letters (eg. the LL in ALL) must use two adjacent cells. The words start in the coloured cells and the vowels are shown by asterisks.

Sudoku No 14,870 — Fiendish

				6		
		4		8		
		1	8	5	2	
	5	9	2			
1	2	8		6	3	
	8	7				
	1	2		8	7	6
4	2		1	9		
				1		

How to solve Sudoku. Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

Stuck on KenKen, Killer or Sudoku?

Call 0901 293 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, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Killer No 9439 — Deadly

20			31			35		
	26			20				
		35					19	
			25	20	12			17
							10	
10		16						
	7		29		12	20		
23					18			

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 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. **For solutions to KenKen, Sudoku & Killer see Times2 on Monday**

KenKen No 6192 — Medium

3÷	12×		4-		2÷
	4-		9+		
2-	2-			240×	
	10+	5	3-		
1-				6×	
	4+		11+		

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.

Cryptic Quintagram®

Solve all five cryptic clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Assist in Beatles film (4)

— — — —
2 Old king hated garish displays (5)

— — — — —
3 Amazing MI chase involving learner (7)

— — — — — — —
4 Ageing convict's bird? (7)

— — — — — — — — —
5 One stealing a person's fish: stealing and returning (9)

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
A	A	A	A	C	D	D	E
E	E	E	E	G	G	G	H
I	I	K	L	L	L	M	N
P	P	P	R	R	R	R	Y

Word Watch

David Parfitt

Macarism

- a. Left-handedness
- b. A road-surfacing process
- c. A blessing

Viridescent

- a. Greenish
- b. Spreading rapidly
- c. Manly, masculine

Atheling

- a. A young coppiced tree
- b. A non-identical twin
- c. An Anglo-Saxon prince

Cymbiform

- a. Part-organic, part-robot
- b. Boat-shaped
- c. Resembling a sign or omen

Scrabble® Paul Gallen

This week's column focuses on the option to pass one's turn. Typically this is only seen when a player is stuck with an unplayable letter in the end-game, such as the V. It is rarely advisable to pass earlier in the game. This is because passing registers zero points on the turn and one is left with the same seven tiles on the following move.

It can be easy to fall into the trap of passing when holding a bonus-friendly rack in the hope that the opponent will open the board or provide a favourable floating tile for an eight-letter word. In this scenario, the opponent is likely either to play defensively or to exchange tiles in order to improve their rack without making a move. In summary, you should be suspicious if your opponent passes their turn early in the game.

In an extraordinary game from the recent Hong Kong Championship between Rex Chan and Adem Ng, both players passed at various points in the opening turns which ultimately resulted in the triggering of the "six-pass" rule. This rule is applied when six consecutive turns do not result in a move on the board.

This means that the game ends immediately and the value of the tiles on each player's rack is deducted from their respective totals to produce the final scores.

After five consecutive turns with no move made, Ng held the following rack and it was his move.

A A E E E O O T

Holding single-point tiles, Ng thought he had a good chance of winning by passing his turn and triggering the six-pass rule. However, Chan had passed on his previous turn, suggesting that he also had a rack full of low-value tiles.

Ng proceeded to pass, and Chan's final rack was revealed to be:

I O R S T

With the blank tiles having no tile value, Chan held the best possible rack in this scenario and won the game with a score of -5 versus Ng's final score of -7.

Earlier in the proceedings, Ng had an opportunity to play OOOZED for 34 points, as shown on the board below. Using Chan's final rack, can you find a 76-point bonus word, declaring the blanks as E and R?

Collins Official Scrabble Words is the word authority used. Word positions use the grid reference plus (a)cross or (d)own.

2L	3L	2W	3W	2L	3L	2W	3W	2L	3L	2W	3W	2L	3L	2W	3W
3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L
2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L
3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L
2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L
3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L
2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L
3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L
2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L
3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L
2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L
3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L
2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L
3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L
2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L
3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L	3L	2L

Letter values

1 point: A E I O U
L N R S T

2 points: D G

3 points: B C M P

4 points: F H V W Y

K = 5
J X = 8
Q Z = 10

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Chess David Howell

Thriller in Toronto

After a titanic struggle, 17-year-old Dommaraju Gukesh emerged as the winner of the FIDE Candidates Tournament. This sensational result means the Indian grandmaster now has the right to challenge the reigning world champion Ding Liren. A victory in that title match — due to take place later this year — would make Gukesh the youngest undisputed world champion in history.

Heading into the final climactic round of the Candidates Tournament, Gukesh had 8.5 points. In close pursuit on 8 points were three experienced warriors; American duo Hikaru Nakamura and Fabiano Caruana, and Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi. While Gukesh held a comfortable draw with the black pieces against Nakamura, he still faced a nervous wait to see if he would be caught. A win for either Caruana or Nepomniachtchi — who, as luck would have it, played each other in the final round — would have forced a play-off for first place.

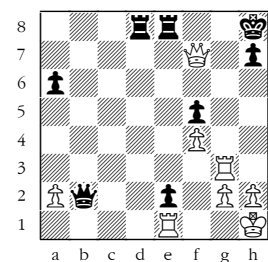
An epic battle ensued, with both players needing to win at all costs. **White: Fabiano Caruana**
Black: Ian Nepomniachtchi
FIDE Candidates Tournament, Toronto 2024

Queen's Gambit Declined
1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 d5 4 exd5 exd5 5 Bg5 Bb4 6 e3 h6 7 Bh4 g5 8 Bg3 Ne4 9 Qc2 h5 10 f3 Nxc3 11 hxc3 Be6 12 Bd3 c6 13 0-0 Nd7 14 f4 Bg4 15 Nf3 Qe7? A mistake in a sharp, unbalanced middle-game. 15...gxf4 16 exf4 Qf6 17 Re1+ Kd8 gives Black a healthy position, despite the loss of castling rights. 16 e4! A good rule of thumb. The side playing against the bishop pair should look to accelerate play. 16...Bxc3 17 Qxc3 Bxf3 18 gxf3 dxe4 19 Bxe4 gxf4 20 g4 0-0-0 21 d5 h4 Blocking is impossible: 21...c5 22 d6 Qe6 23 Qa5 is the swift punishment. 22 dxc6 Ne5 23 Bf5+ Kb8 24 Kbl b6 25 Rd7 Flashy, although 25 Bd7 was simple and strong. 25...Rxd7 26 cxd7 Rd8 27 Qd4 Nxd7 28 Rdl Qc5 Clever defence in a desperate situation. 29 Qxf4+ Avoiding 29 Qxc5 bxc5 30 Rxd7? when 30...Bxd7 31 Bxd7 h3 turns the tables. 29...Qc7 30 Qd2 h3 31 Be4 a5 32 Qd5 Ka7 33 Qxf7 h2 34 Qh7 Kb8 35 a3 Qe5 36 Qh6 Qc7

clear conscience. 39...Rxc5! The only hope of muddying the waters. 40 Qxc5 Qxh7+ 41 Kal? The wrong square. 42 Ka2! was better. 41...Qc2 42 Qg8+ Ka7 43 Ka2 a4 44 f4 Nb3 The difficult 44...Ka6! was best. White cannot make progress due to the h2-pawn combined with threats against his king. 45 Qg7+ Ka6 46 Qc3 Qg2 47 Qc4+ Kb7 48 Re1! Almost 350,000 online spectators were watching this historic moment. Caruana is winning again, but the task is far from easy. 48...Nc5 49 Qfl Qd5+ 50 Kbl Qf5+ 51 Kal Qc2 52 f5 Nd3 53 Rbl Ne5 54 f6 Nb3+ 55 Ka2 Nd2 56 Qhl+ Ka7 57 Rcl Qb3+ 58 Kal Qe6 59 Rc7+ Ka6 60 f7 Nb3+ 61 Kbl Qf5+? Incredibly. 61...Nd2+ 62 Kc2 Qf5+ 63 Kxd2 Qf4+ leads to a miraculous draw. The white king cannot escape perpetual check. 62 Ka2 Nc5 63 Qa8+ Kb5 64 Qc6+? After a series of missed opportunities, the win finally slips away. 64 Qe8+ Ka6 65 Qe2+! was the correct angle of attack. 64...Ka6 65 Qa8+ Kb5 66 Qc6+ Ka6 67 Re7 Qfl 68 Qa8+ Kb5 69 Qe8+ Ka6 70 Qa8+ Kb5 71 Qe8+ Ka6 72 Re4 Nxe4 73 Qxa4+ Kb7 74 Qxe4+ Ka7 75 Qa4+ Kb7 76 Qd7+ Ka6 77 Qc8+ Ka7 78 f8Q Qxf8 79 Qxf8 h1Q Black escapes into a drawn queen and pawn endgame — an outcome neither player wanted. Draw agreed on move 109 Both players looked exhausted and dejected after this enthralling fight.

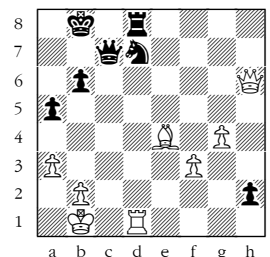
Winning Move

Black to play. Variation from Muzychuk-Tan, Toronto 2024. Tan Zhongyi was the winner of the Women's Candidates Tournament. Can you spot Black's fastest route to victory in the position below?



The first correct entry drawn on Thursday wins *The Times Mindset Puzzles Book 1* and *The Sunday Times Teasers Book 2*. Two runners-up will receive a book prize. Answers on a postcard to: The Times Winning Move, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ, or email to: winningmove@thetimes.co.uk. Open to 18+, UK and ROI residents only. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's puzzle:
1 Nd5! wins: 1...exd5 (or, for example, 1...c5 2 Qxc5 Nd7 3 Nxf6 Nxc5 4 Rxe8+) 2 Qxf8 mate
The winner is RL (Bob) Pickering of Newton-with-Clifton, Lancashire. The runners-up are Dennis Orton of Hayling Island, Hampshire, and Andy Forbes of Borehamwood, Hertfordshire.



A moment Caruana may regret forever. 37 g5 37 Rd2! would have eliminated the h-pawn, Black's only source of counterplay. 37...Rg8 38 Rh1 Nc5 39 Bh7? Another nervy moment. After 39 Bc2 Black could resign with a

The Listener Crossword No 4813 **Disorderly Conduct** by Colleague

Senders of the first three correct entries drawn will receive *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* or may choose from a selection of other books (see below). Send your entry with contact details completed to: Listener Crossword 4813, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, to arrive by May 9.

1	2	3	4		5	6		7	8	9		10
11							12					
13				14							15	
							16					
17			18			19						20
21					22	23		24				
25	26				27			28				
	29	30						31			32	
33				34		35	36			37		
38									39			
				40					41			
42						43						
44							45					

Prize options and more at listenercrossword.com

More information about Chambers books can be found at chambers.co.uk

Name

Address

Postcode Phone/email

The grid contains five people's surnames (two not in their commonly recognised form) in straight lines (33 cells in all). As a duo and a trio, they were involved in two similar statements. Solvers must highlight a cryptic representation in a straight line of each statement (18 cells in all). *The Chambers Dictionary* (2016) is the primary reference.

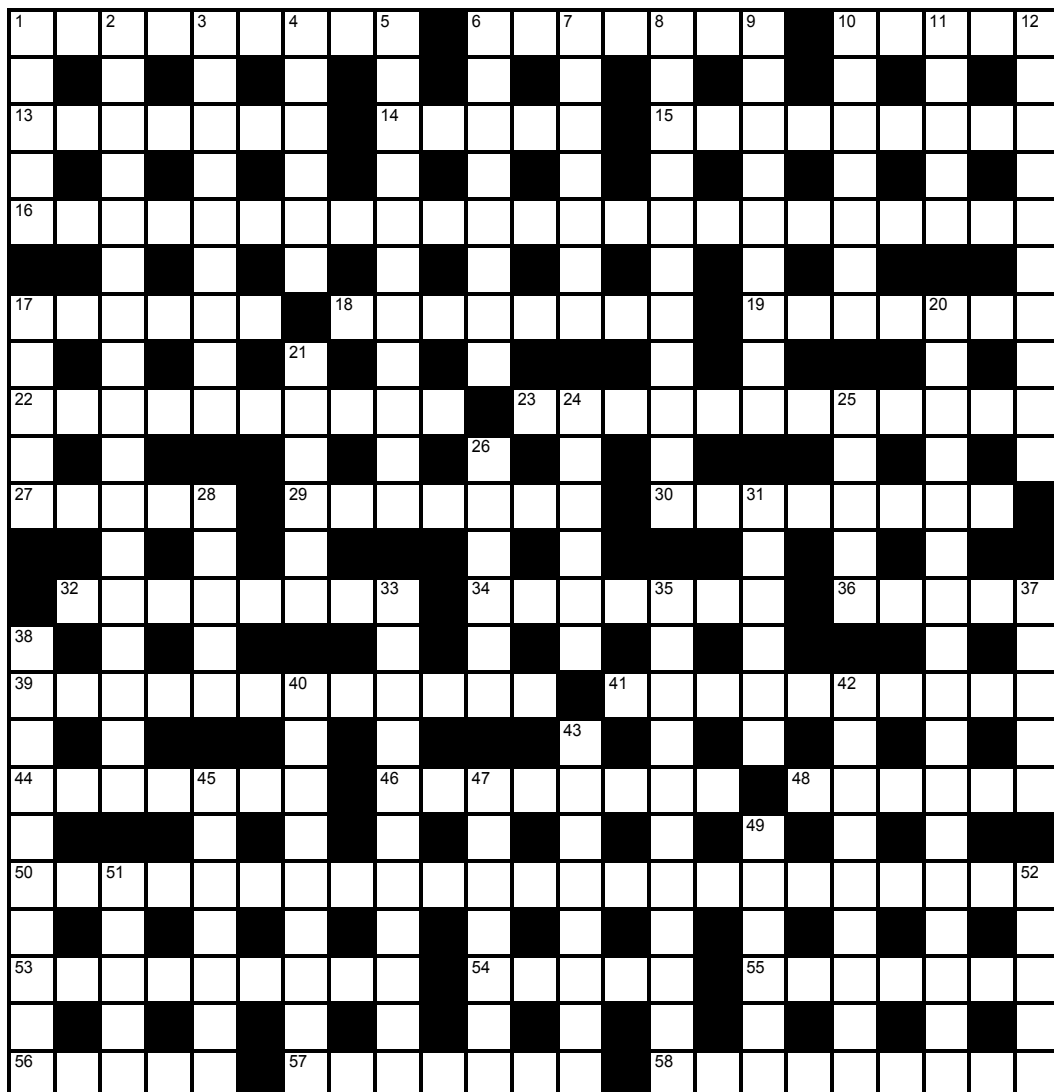
Across

- 1 Forsooth letter, with no indication of scepticism, gives statements of terms (6)
- 6 Brush special device to overturn trams (7)
- 11 Canned fish rolled in fermenting beer (7)
- 12 Easily influenced, praying to give up drink and coke (6)
- 13 Be productive, but for energy cuts (4)
- 14 When sun's out, I grasp loose light scarf (5)
- 16 Run out of coloured fur? Take it to cat (6)
- 17 Pasted counterfeit oners (6)
- 19 Diminishes my debut in tales of Spenser (7)
- 21 Quiet in exquisite photographic setting (5)
- 23 Bed with a Latin altar cloth (6)
- 25 Run out of sulphur — answer is a source of aromatic oil (5)
- 27 Return of Australian native to us in Perth (3)
- 28 Audibly discordant American translation (5)
- 29 Jerry on the wagon left last drop of ale — once roughly four pints (6)
- 31 Hand gesture is something worthless with rheumatoid arthritis (5)
- 33 Eight Poles dancing extremely close once (7)
- 36 Show-off car thief's commotion at R&A (6)
- 38 Oath taker screened during projection (6)
- 40 Diverts local gutters discharging litre (5)
- 41 Aged close to 10⁹ years (4)
- 42 Disruption of the wild tailless monkey (6)
- 43 Critiques of rival among Spenser's lines (7)
- 44 Man in Wales bizarrely on a chopper — but no longer (7)
- 45 Antelope's half pony in harsh settlement (6)

Down

- 2 New depth in uncapped pipe's air-traps (6)
- 3 Fancy forgetting Newton in speech (5)
- 4 Agitator not needing sermon about Forfar's strip (4)
- 5 Catches to take time and not neuter dogs (5)
- 6 Box for baking pottery wanting a good smoke (5)
- 7 Trojan embedded in email I accessed (5)
- 8 Freely use poetic supplements (9, two words)
- 9 Past deity seen on a discontinued coin (6)
- 10 School's reputation rising (4)
- 13 Former African linking Serbia to France? (7)
- 14 Fluttering sexual activity with pop in port (6)
- 15 Affairs involving Latin avengers of yore (5)
- 16 Freeman's role confused after college (5)
- 18 Elaborate pose that's immediate (9)
- 20 Solid part of fat has exuding drop within (7)
- 22 Region of Germany drops its one scorer (5)
- 23 Vixen, presumably, to prepare earth (3)
- 24 NY's dull people married in plimsolls? (6)
- 26 Oscar and Mike inhaling more narcotic (5)
- 30 Old Greek is hard and fearful (6)
- 32 Rearrange West Africa's dance music (6)
- 34 To come after nut, make legal claim (5)
- 35 Troy obstructs ski-lifts (5)
- 36 Henry observed narrowly and hoofed it (5)
- 37 Cute tenor's chirp (5)
- 38 Refrain from verses with African capital almost used up (4)
- 39 Old consort of Keith losing ring of apprentice geisha (4)

Jumbo crossword No 1670



Prizes

The prize for each of the first correct solutions to the Cryptic and times2 Jumbo clues to be opened will be a collection of Times reference books – including *The Times Reference Atlas of the World*, *Collins English Dictionary & Thesaurus*, and *Bradford's Crossword Solver's Dictionary* published by HarperCollins. Entries should be marked "Cryptic" or "times2" and sent to: The Times Jumbo Crossword 1670, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ, or emailed to: jumbo@thetimes.co.uk, with "Cryptic 1670" or "times2 1670" in the subject line, to arrive by May 9. Open to 18+, UK & ROI residents only. The winners and the solutions will be published on May 11.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

..... Postcode.....

Phone number.....

Across

- 1 Play by Shakespeare (9)
- 6 Wash thoroughly before performing an operation (5,2)
- 10 Tea producing state of India (5)
- 13 Affected by nausea (7)
- 14 Inundation (5)
- 15 Performance; translation (9)
- 16 Regional body dealing with state schooling (5,9,9)
- 17 Frightened (6)
- 18 Relating to sound or hearing (8)
- 19 State of southern US (7)
- 22 Request for attendance (10)
- 23 Part of contract allowing release under certain circumstances (6,6)
- 27 Movable joint for door (5)
- 29 Journey by sea; section of text (7)
- 30 Intensely longing (8)
- 32 Like different forms of the same element (8)
- 34 Attired (7)
- 36 Place where birds sleep (5)
- 39 Relating (to); being appropriate (12)

- 41 Not occupied (10)
- 44 Barge; smoker's accessory (7)
- 46 Imitative artistic work (8)
- 48 I've got a — bunch of coconuts (song) (6)
- 50 Behave so as to attract attention (4,1,9,2,7)
- 53 Small European republic (3,6)
- 54 Seasonal entertainment (5)
- 55 Long-sleeved pullover (7)
- 56 Move forward on hands and knees (5)
- 57 Declare (someone) free from guilt (7)
- 58 Given refuge (9)

Down

- 1 Secret political faction (5)
- 2 MCP in full (4,10,3)
- 3 Soothing, calming (9)
- 4 Interior (6)
- 5 Effective (11)
- 6 Quicker route (8)
- 7 British soldier (7)
- 8 Excessively complicated administrative system (11)
- 9 Occur at intervals throughout (9)

- 10 State of southwestern US (7)
- 11 Literary genre (3-2)
- 12 Person earning lots (10)
- 17 Worker in metal (5)
- 20 An improvement (1,4,3,3,6)
- 21 Accelerate; be promoted (4,2)
- 24 Made biased or distorted (6)
- 25 Large passenger ship (5)
- 26 Forgive (an offence) (6)
- 28 Go into (5)
- 31 Patron saint of Scotland (6)
- 33 Clearly visible (11)
- 35 Occurring at the same time (11)
- 37 At the present time (5)
- 38 Classical style up to about 1700 (5,5)
- 40 Mother of Caligula (9)
- 42 Reparation for a wrong (9)
- 43 Unrestrained or excessive force (8)
- 45 Laborious effort (7)
- 47 Surgeon's blade (7)
- 49 Preparation for the hair; whipped dish (6)
- 51 African country (5)
- 52 SI unit of electrical capacitance (5)

Bridge Andrew Robson

Things started well for my friends Sabine Auken and Roy Welland for team Rombaut in their quarter-final clash v Goodman in this year's Vanderbilt trophy at the USBC in Louisville, Kentucky.

Rombaut was almost 50 imps up (that's a lot) and, on this fateful Board 23, they were defending doubled Five-level contracts at both tables, neither of which can (in theory) make ...

Dealer South Both Vul

♠ 9 7 6
♥ Q 10 8 4
♦ K J 10 8 4
♣ 5

♠ K 8 ♠ 2
♥ - ♥ K 9 7 6 2
♦ Q 9 6 2 ♦ A 7 5 3
♣ A K 9 8 7 4 3 ♣ Q 6 2
 ♣ A Q J 10 5 4 3
 ♥ A J 5 3
 ♦ -
 ♣ J 10

Table One (Rombaut N-S)

S	W	N	E
1♠	2♠	2♠	3♠
4♠	5♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl end			

North led his singleton club, a bright shot to cut down ruffing in dummy. Declarer, the genial Texan Mike Passell, Bermuda Bowl champion back in 1979, won dummy's queen and led a spade. South gambled a low card, hoping partner held the king and could win and give him a diamond ruff. However, this didn't cost a trick (play the ace, and declarer can drop a diamond from dummy on his promoted king of spades).

Winning the king of spades, declarer ruffed a spade and ran all but two clubs, hoping North would discard two diamonds (whereupon he could set up a fourth diamond after losing two). However, North clung on to four diamonds.

Declarer appears to be about to lose three diamonds but when he crossed to the ace of diamonds (South discarding) and led a low heart, South erred by rising with the ace. Declarer ruffed and exited with a diamond, whereupon, after winning the ten, North could only cash the king (as the heart exit was no longer safe, dummy's king promoted). Eleven tricks and doubled game made.

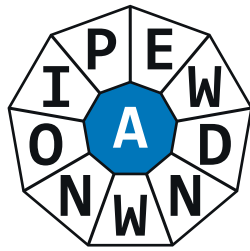
Table Two (Rombaut E-W)

S	W	N	E
1♠	2♠	2♠	3♠
4♠	5♠	Pass	Pass
5♠	Dbl	end	

At Table Two, West cashed a top club v 5♠ doubled. A second club would have left declarer with a slow heart loser as well as the king of spades — one down. When, in practice, West switched to a diamond (doubtless hoping to put partner in, so he could score a heart ruff), to the jack, ace and ruff, declarer could get home. He cashed the ace of spades, ruffed a club, cashed the king of diamonds, discarding a heart, and ran the queen of hearts. Eleven tricks and doubled game made.

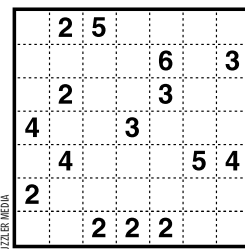
Allowing both Five-level contracts to make gave Goodman 17 imps. The momentum of the match changed and, sadly, my friends lost by precisely that number: 17 imps.

Polygon Roger Phillips



Using the given letters no more than once, make as many words as possible of four or more letters, always including the central letter. Capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives are disallowed.
How you rate: 15 words average; 20, good; 29, very good; 39, excellent.

Cell Blocks 5083



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.

Train Tracks
No 2230

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.
Solution on Monday

	5	5	4	6	5	2	3	6	
A									5
									2
									4
									7
									7
									5
									5
									1
								B	

Solutions

Solution to last week's Samurai Sudoku

4 8 5 9 2 3 7 1 6	7 2 5 9 3 1 8 6 4
7 3 1 4 5 6 9 2 8	1 3 8 6 7 4 2 9 5
6 2 9 8 1 7 5 3 4	4 9 6 5 2 8 7 1 3
2 5 7 6 3 4 8 9 1	6 1 7 3 8 5 4 2 9
9 6 3 1 8 2 4 5 7	9 8 3 2 4 6 5 7 1
1 4 8 7 9 5 3 6 2	5 4 2 7 1 9 3 8 6
3 1 6 5 4 8 2 7 9	8 5 4 1 9 7 6 3 2
5 7 4 2 6 9 1 8 3	2 6 9 8 5 3 1 4 7
8 9 2 3 7 1 6 4 5	3 7 1 4 6 2 9 5 8
	7 6 2 4 5 1 9 8 3
	5 3 1 9 2 8 6 4 7
	8 9 4 3 6 7 5 1 2
9 2 3 8 7 5 4 1 6	5 9 3 7 2 8 3 4 9
7 5 1 6 4 9 3 2 8	6 7 4 1 9 5 6 2 8
6 8 4 2 1 3 9 5 7	8 1 2 4 3 6 7 1 5
4 7 8 1 9 2 6 3 5	6 7 3 9 5 2 8 1 4
3 6 2 4 5 8 7 9 1	9 5 1 8 3 4 7 2 6
5 1 9 3 6 7 8 4 2	8 4 2 1 6 7 5 3 9
8 3 6 9 2 1 5 7 4	5 1 4 2 8 3 6 9 7
2 9 7 5 8 4 1 6 3	3 6 9 4 7 1 2 5 8
1 4 5 7 3 6 2 8 9	2 8 7 5 9 6 3 4 1

Our five-grid Sudoku will test your powers of logic and deduction.

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length. The interlocking nature of the grid gives you more clues — and more complexity.

Remember — don't try to solve each Sudoku grid in turn; the puzzle has to be tackled as a whole.

Stuck? Call 0901 293 6263 to receive four clues for today's Samurai Sudoku. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm)

Times Crossword No 28,902

1		2		3			4	5		6		7		8
						9								
10										11				
12				13								14		
15		16						17						
														18
	19					20		21						
22														
23				24								25		
26						27				28				
29									30					

Across

- 1 Apt reforms at close of business with stock dropping (6)
- 4 Man nearly does aquatic sport in island country (8)
- 10 Whipped cream in a doughnut, say, or a drink (9)
- 11 Some irrational impulse to go around fashion centre (5)
- 12 Attacking left-wing group coming into existence (11)
- 14 Rule for cycling? It's something boring (3)
- 15 Person forced to run university after official letter (7)
- 17 Celtic's goalie dropping ball, running about (6)
- 19 Joined in song, following alto up to the middle (6)
- 21 Conservative opponent goes around greeting a red (7)
- 23 Outspoken, sarcastic American's spirit (3)
- 24 Politician, one defending goal, is tender of course (11)

- 26 Underground women's movement mostly without resistance (5)
- 27 Maybe foil students once, admitting current hesitation (9)
- 29 Provider of meal consuming large one (8)
- 30 Low interest from banks in awfully limiting way (6)

Down

- 1 Where to find a silk cloth's hem with golden colours (8)
- 2 I'm very excited before left turn (5)
- 3 En Angleterre, suis-je un copain? (3)
- 5 Affectionate daughter tucks into last of Hula Hoops (7)
- 6 Make less attractive men diet, needing ages to change (11)
- 7 Lowbrow Victor Borge's heading away from European (9)
- 8 What tourists in Egypt do, wanting energy, and infirm (6)
- 9 Football side concerned with means of promoting growth (6)
- 13 Recipient of donations urging British Member of Parliament to pursue billions (7,4)
- 16 Clerk, saving time, getting reward for a bit of a fag (6,3)
- 18 Strong drinks? The setter's game (3,5)
- 20 Delivery time of fruit that's eaten pureed, periodically (3,4)
- 21 Agree with politician, a despicable sort (6)
- 22 Gracious king's saving seat, lowering head (6)
- 25 With long clothing, I perhaps put a coat on (5)
- 28 Weakling losing head in terror (3)

Solution No 28,901

N	O	V	E	L	I	S	T	C	A	R	E	E	R	
A	E	A	E		L	N	E							
V	E	R	O	N	I	C	A	M	A	N	T	I	S	
Y	B	D	T	A	R	E	E	I						
		R	O	M	A	N	N	U	M	E	R	A	L	
P	S	W	R	T		T	I							
O	F	T	E	N	I	N	A	N	I	M	A	T	E	
K	O	E	A	G	M	I	N							
E	S	P	E	R	A	N	T	O	P	A	N	I	C	
R	M		I	N	A	S	E							
F	R	O	N	T	I	S	P	I	E	C	E			
A	T	A	M	S	T	F	S							
C	H	I	L	L	I	S	T	R	I	D	E	N	T	
E	O	O		I	V	E	E							
D	I	N	I	N	G	S	C	R	E	W	T	O	P	