

**Sudoku** Difficult No 14,877

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

Fiendish No 14,878

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

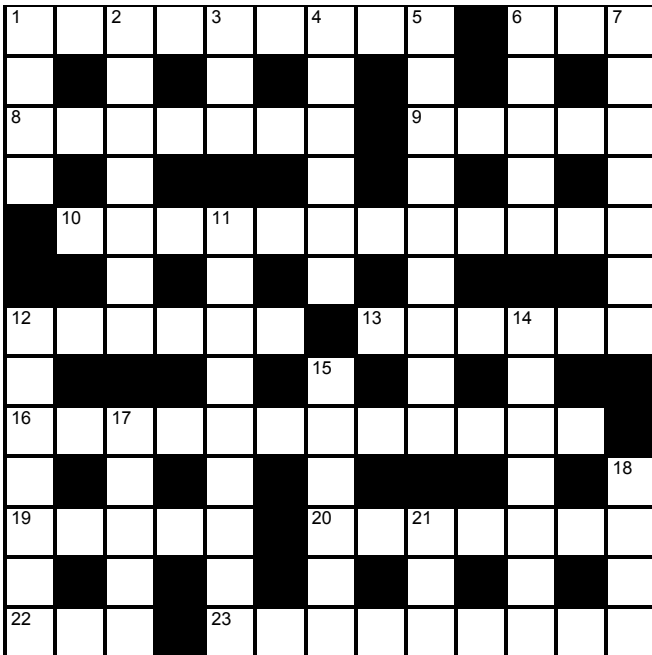
Super fiendish No 14,879

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

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**Cluelines** Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? 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).

The Times Quick Cryptic No 2664 by Izetti



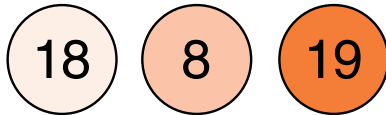
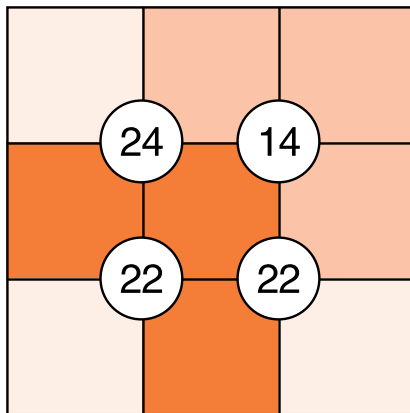
Across

- 1 Boozy yob, exceptionally large, joining group outside university (5,4)
- 6 Last bit of resistance of retreating enemy (3)
- 8 Most audacious and better than the rest — mature within (7)
- 9 Interior of pub — about to be done over (5)
- 10 Maybe a time before Christmas by Yorkshire river (12)
- 12 Eastern money consumed for legislative body (6)
- 13 Bishop with lamp maybe revealing plant disease (6)
- 16 Having much responsibility, like a driver with warm bottom? (2,3,3,4)
- 19 False gods, surprisingly solid (5)
- 20 Accommodation given to king and one Italian boss (7)
- 22 Some burning inside to get drink (3)
- 23 Very tired journalists finally meeting mad man (editor) (9)

Down

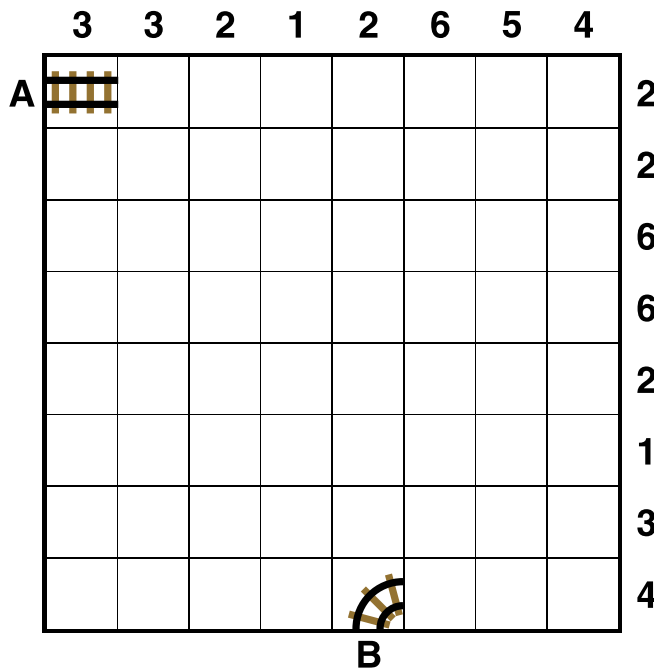
- 1 Innocent little creatures losing heart in workplaces (4)
- 2 Ship that's gone out to save everyone (7)
- 3 Regret the way of Napoleon (3)
- 4 Eight days of celebration in month on avenue (6)
- 5 Elgar isn't bad — do they tinkle in his music? (9)
- 6 Found different ballet movement (5)
- 7 Serious listener has comfortable home (7)
- 11 Female performers, experts concealing long hair (9)
- 12 Old Bob ill, out on the briny? (7)
- 14 Attractiveness of heartless girl having secret affair (7)
- 15 Capone with bear turning up for fair game? (6)
- 17 Thunderous god descending on knight, old character (5)
- 18 Fellows had briefly to be put right (4)
- 21 Point made by little Dorothy (3)

Suko No 4104



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 2233



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

Saggard

- a A case for a dagger worn on a belt
- b A person who hangs helplessly
- c A wise elder

Durchmusterung

- a A catalogue of stars
- b A kaleidoscope
- c A crisis meeting

Leguleian

- a One of a band of mythical archers
- b Pertaining to petty questions of law
- c An Irish form of the bagpipes

**Poker** Byron Jacobs

**Put to the test**

Last week's column discussed pre-flop 3-betting and touched on the crucial distinction of whether the 3-bettor is in position (IP) or out of position (OOP). Playing IP is advantageous because the OOP player has to play first on every postflop street, giving their opponent an information advantage. If you will be playing IP you can 3-bet with a moderate sizing as you do not mind being called. When OOP you should generally size up as you are happy to take down the pot at once. But what if you size up and get called? Then you have to play a large-ish pot OOP. Not ideal but, as Mick Jagger observed, you can't always get what you want. Here are two strong pros contesting such a hand.

This hand is from a PokerGO 25K buy-in. The strong pro Jeremy Ausmus opens and play is folded round to seasoned pro Jonathan Little in the small blind with  $Q♥-Q♦$ . The players are about 100 big blinds (BB) deep. The queens are a clear 3-bet and, as Little will be playing OOP, he sizes up to 4.5BB. Ausmus calls, so Little will now have to negotiate the play OOP.

The flop is  $K♣-7♥-4♠$ , not ideal for Little's queens as any K-x hand is now ahead. However, although the flop is not great for his actual hand, it is good for his overall range. He could hold A-A, A-K and K-K, which Ausmus couldn't as he would 4-bet such strong hands preflop. In this situation,

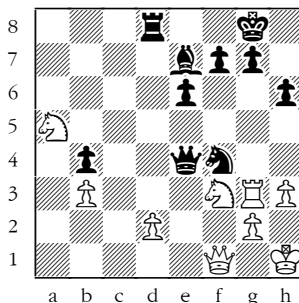
betting virtually 100 per cent of the time, but using a small size, is the best strategy. Little bets 3.5BB into the IOBB pot; Ausmus calls.

The turn brings  $K♣-7♥-4♠-8♥$ . In this situation a different strategy from that taken on the flop is required. The OOP player should now bet far less often but when they do they should use a large sizing, anything from 70-150 per cent of the pot. They should do this with their best made hands, best draws and some junk. They should also be sure to check fairly often with good hands so that the IP player cannot simply run over them by betting every time they check. Little does check and Ausmus checks behind.

The river brings  $K♣-7♥-4♠-8♥-J♥$ , an interesting card completing a potential flush. Little checks and Ausmus makes a pot-sized bet, putting Little to the test. Ausmus could certainly have K-x as well as two hearts for a flush. He could also be bluffing. What to do?

Little calls and Ausmus shows up with  $6♥-6♠$ , so Little's queens are good. Little's call is partly based on the fact that his queens are good blockers (cards you hold so Villain cannot have them). The queens make it is less likely that Ausmus has the natural K-Q and also that he has two hearts (Little holds the  $Q♥$ ). If Ausmus wants to bluff in this hand he probably needs to bet the turn and the river. However, if Little is really strong, that plan will backfire badly. Poker is a tricky game.

**Winning Move**



**Black to play.** This position is from Jacev-Pranav, Titled Tuesday, chess.com 2024.

Black is doing very well with an extra pawn and well-placed pieces. The white forces, on the other hand, are scattered around ineffectually with the knight on a5 having gone awol and the g3-rook creating a strange impression. How did Black land a killer blow before White could get his house in order?

**Codeword** No 5203

5	25	26	18	25	1	19		12	2	20	15	5	
15	<b>U</b>		21		18		2		2			25	
12	<b>R</b>	21	15	18	8		21	6	2	12	22	3	13
14			12		15		7		8		9		22
24	21	8	2	5	22	3	12		9	25	5	17	
15				22		18		20		13			
5	7	2	3	12	19		24	3	16	22	25	16	
		4		19		14		18				21	
12	21	15	2		7	3	12	11	5	7	3	18	
21		25		3		12		3		3		16	
20	21	18	3	18	10	3		20	3	18	23	21	
21		21		21		8		24		18		12	
22	21	13	25	18		2	7	2	12	3	24	8	

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	<b>U</b>	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*

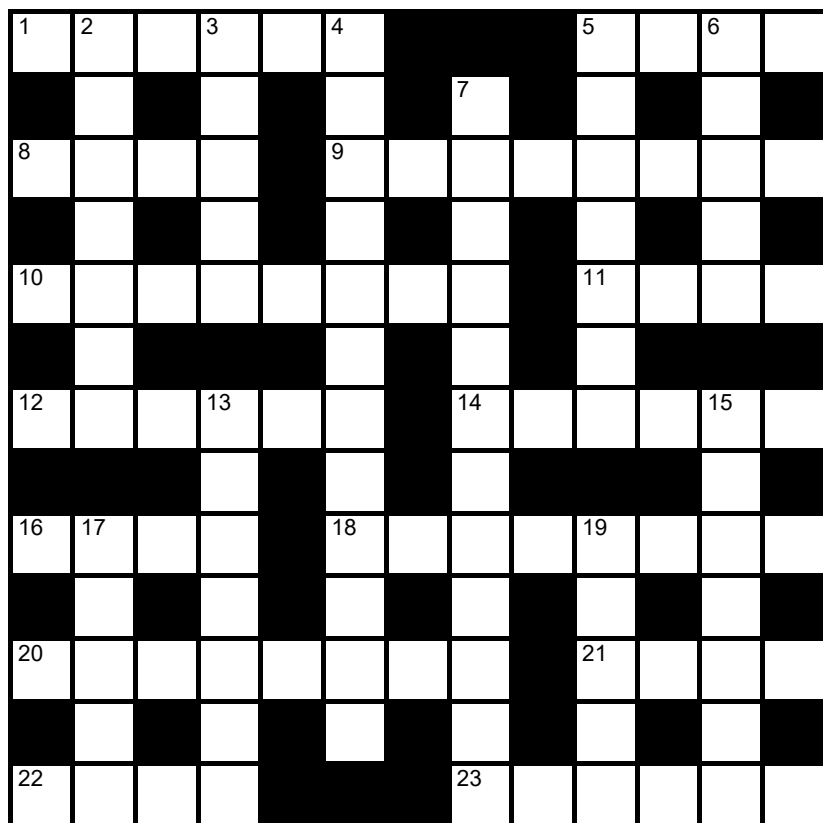
**Cluelines** Stuck on Codeword? To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

**Lexica** Easy No 7383 Hard No 7384

...	●	G	A	D	E	E	:	...	C	O	R	A	S	H	:
●								R							Y
...								S							...
C								S	E						C
A								●	R						C
S								A	L						U
...								G	R						C
O								N	O						K
...								...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	W	O	R	A	R	S	:	...	●	C	Y	R	A	I	:

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

times2 Crossword No 9519



**Across**

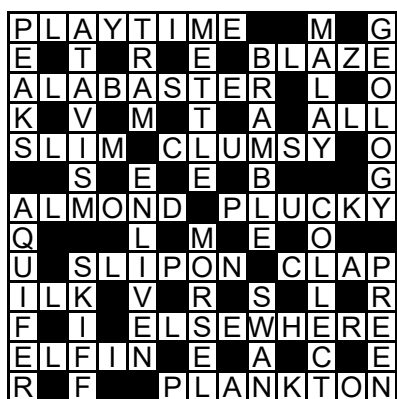
- 1 Bungled situation (4-2)
- 5 Piscatorial creature (4)
- 8 Eyelid inflammation (4)
- 9 Feeling sick (8)
- 10 Irrationality (8)
- 11 Inauthentic, forged (4)
- 12 Force (to do) (6)
- 14 Except in the case that (6)

- 16 Goad, incentive (4)
- 18 Totally bewildered (3,2,3)
- 20 Type of Catholic church (8)
- 21 Unused, inactive (4)
- 22 Defeat; throb (4)
- 23 Very sweet (6)

**Down**

- 2 Begin to use up (resources) (3,4)
- 3 Leather with a soft smooth nap (5)
- 4 Northeastern US state (12)
- 5 Anxious (7)
- 6 Lurk (5)
- 7 Sudden and significant advances (7,5)
- 13 Carry on doggedly (7)
- 15 Pertaining to stars (7)
- 17 Serenity, tranquillity (5)
- 19 Tethering, knotting (5)

**Solution to Crossword 9518**



**Need help with today's puzzle?** Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

**KenKen** Medium No 6195

9+	36×	7+		3÷	
			5-		1-
13+			3÷	60×	
	12+				
2÷	1		15+	6+	
	1-				5

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.

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**Futoshiki** No 4743

<input type="text"/>	<	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	2
<input type="text"/>	>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>		1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	∇
<input type="text"/>			∧	∇	<input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	∇
<input type="text"/>	<	<input type="text"/>	>	<input type="text"/>	>	<input type="text"/>

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 3702

	16	35	29			3	15		20	7
23				4	33	4			3	
34									4	
	19					28			23	
21	17			9		32		17		
13			25					4		
		23	6						28	16
		12							17	
	6			7				21		
10	6			17				16		
					25					
4			35		17					4
3			16							7

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.

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**Quintagram®**

Solve all five cryptic clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Dam, eerie, being incomplete (4)

— — — —

2 Welcome refitting of cap, etc (6)

— — — — — —

3 Hidden in Tripoli by a native, one from Tobruk perhaps (6)

— — — — — —

4 Lark, notice, in flight (8)

— — — — — — — —

5 Second issue causes revolt (8)

— — — — — — — —

A	A	A	A	B	C	C	C
D	D	E	E	E	E	E	I
I	I	I	L	N	N	O	P
P	R	S	S	T	T	W	Y

**Brain Trainer**

<b>EASY</b>	<b>22</b>	$\frac{1}{2}$ OF IT	SQUARE IT	-9	25% OF IT	+6	x 3	-12	70% OF IT	-16	<b>ANSWER</b>	
<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>99</b>	+37	50% OF IT	+55	x 3	+78	$+\frac{1}{3}$ OF IT	+66	50% OF IT	+77	<b>ANSWER</b>	
<b>HARDER</b>	<b>213</b>	x 4	+998	70% OF IT	x 4	90% OF IT	-876	x 2	-873	$\frac{2}{3}$ OF IT	<b>ANSWER</b>	

**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**  
 def, die, dig, dire, dirge, doe, doer, dog, doge, dogie, fid, fiord, **fire**dog, ford, fridge, fried, geoid, gid, gird, god, grid, ide, ode, red, redo, rid, ride, ridge, rod, rode

**Cell Blocks No 5086**

		12			6		
						6	
7	6		2				
						4	
				6			

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 3705**

	x 4	-		= 1	
+		x		+	
	-		x	= 5	
+		x		+	
	x		x 2	= 84	
=	16	=	224	=	10

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.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

**Killer Tricky No 9444**

12		18		8		21		16
20				12	17			
	19	6				26		
		20		10			15	
							9	24
11		17	24	20		13		
					7			
	33					15		
				12				

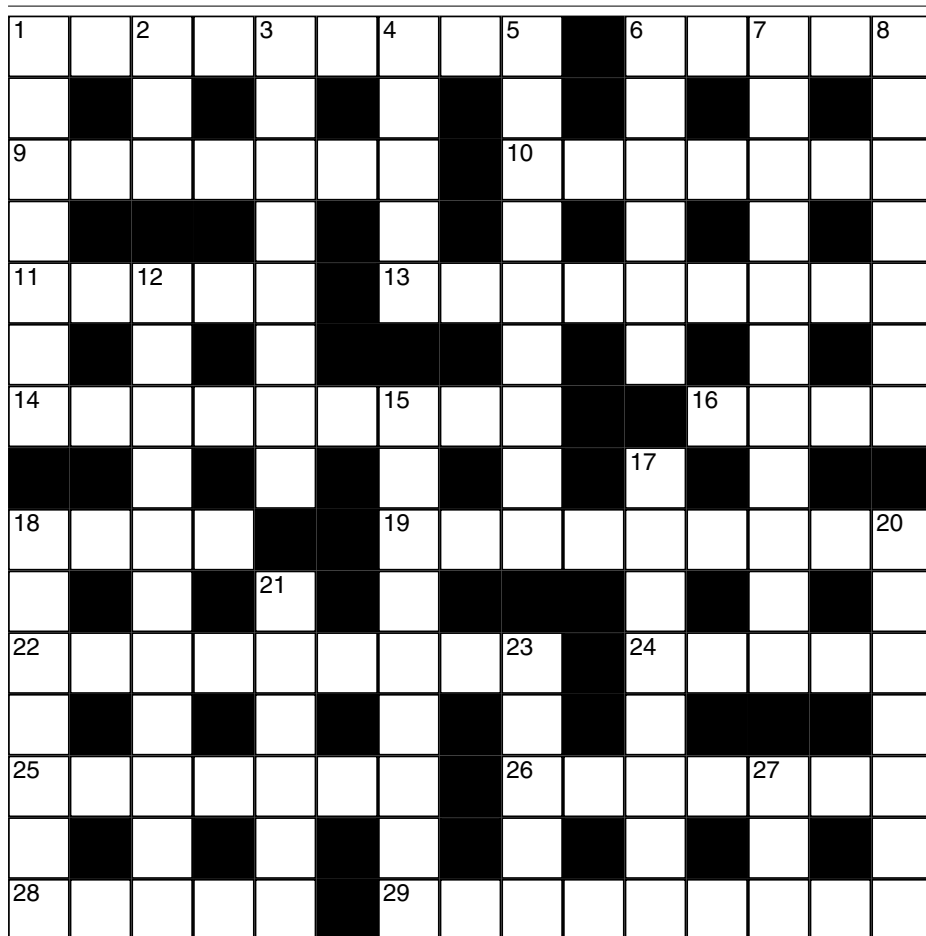
**Killer Deadly No 9445**

9		11		26				22
22				17				
		31			13	23		12
39								27
				18				
19								
		29			17			
			15					27
10		8			10			

As with standard Sudoku, 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.

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Times Crossword 28,905



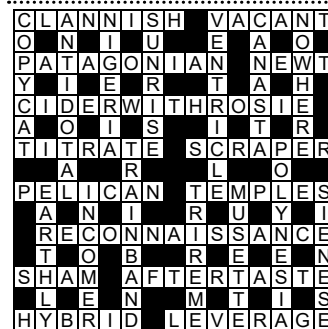
ACROSS

- 1 Has eldest turned out to be indestructible? (9)
- 6 Almost everyone on board attending a dance (5)
- 9 Sweet little thing found in harem perhaps (7)
- 10 Girl on vacation having affair — such excitement! (7)
- 11 I had lunch outside King's Cross (5)
- 13 Huge waste ending in ruin of philosopher (9)
- 14 Composer angrily rails at heartless court (9)
- 16 Expose stomach for audience (4)
- 18 Old queen lazed around? (4)
- 19 Scrap university competition to secure new expedition vessel (9)
- 22 Crazy Sunday with VIP, drinking this? (3,2,4)
- 24 Relative in detention centre an Indian copper once (5)
- 25 Chopper to take off without His Majesty? On the contrary (7)
- 26 Sister might appear thus to people (7)
- 28 Old carouser settled youngster's case (5)
- 29 Two promises becoming a curse (5,4)

DOWN

- 1 Chap turning on female cashier (7)
- 2 Cry on bishop's resignation? It will leave a hole (3)
- 3 Great throw, just missing top (8)
- 4 Remove Republican gatecrashing facility (5)
- 5 Meant to be grand inside, if ornate (9)
- 6 Importance of figures executive originally disappearing (6)
- 7 Promiscuous and outspoken cleric, unpredictable customer (5,6)
- 8 Organise a selection to be broadcast (7)
- 12 Ditching Bonn mandate perverse (11)
- 15 Wordy tome His Eminence has taken into house (9)
- 17 Dish of sturgeon occasionally expensive in France (8)
- 18 Some in Paris concealing failing schemes (7)
- 20 Called for work to block river Dee (7)
- 21 Right place for a quarrel? (6)
- 23 District hospital defended by old man (5)
- 27 Writer's unfinished work? I don't like it (3)

Yesterday's solution 28,904



Check today's answers by ringing 0905 757 0141 by midnight. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke 0333 202 3390.

Solutions

Quick Cryptic 2663

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

Codeword 5202

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

Kakuro 3701

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

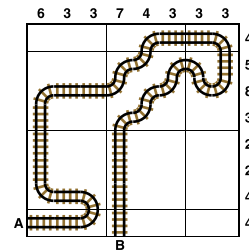
Sudoku 14,874

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

Tetonor 461

390	41	280	51
13 x 30	11 + 30	28 x 10	5 + 46
38	270	18	230
10 + 28	18 x 15	5 + 13	5 x 46
65	43	330	37
5 x 13	13 + 30	11 x 30	11 + 26
33	286	35	306
18 + 15	26 x 11	18 + 17	18 x 17

Train Tracks 2232



Sudoku 14,875

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

Cell Blocks 5085

2	3	2			4
		2		2	
		5			
2		2		2	
4				6	
5	6				

Set Square 3704

4	÷	1	×	8
+		+		-
9	×	6	-	5
-		×		+
7	×	2	×	3

Lexica 7381

			G		
M	A	N	E		
U		U		P	
N			D	U	G
C				L	
H	O	U	R	L	Y

Sudoku 14,876

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

Futoshiki 4742

3	2	5	4	1
				^
1	4	>	2	3
				5
				v
5	1	3	>	2
				4
				^
2	5	4	1	3
				v
4	>	3	1	5
				2

KenKen 6194

4	6	3	5	2	1
3	2	4	6	1	5
2	5	1	4	3	6
1	4	5	2	6	3
6	1	2	3	5	4
5	3	6	1	4	2

Lexica 7382

O					G
D	E	C	O	D	E
E			R		N
	F	A	B	L	E
	I		I		
	R	I	T	E	

Today's solutions

Killer 9442

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

Killer 9443

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

Cryptic Quintagram

- 1 Weir
- 2 Accept
- 3 Libyan
- 4 Escapade
- 5 Sedition

Suko 4104

8	1	2
9	6	5
3	4	7

Brain Trainer

- Easy 47
- Medium 408
- Harder 4,466

Word watch

- Saggard** (b) A person who hangs helplessly (*Collins*)
- Durchmusterung** (a) A catalogue of stars (*Chambers*)
- Leguleian** (b) Pertaining to petty questions of law (*OED*)

Chess – Winning Move

1... Nh5! cunningly traps the white rook. 2 Rg4 appears safe but then 2... Qxg4! 3 hxc4 Ng3+ 4 Kgl Nxfl 5 Kxfl Bf6 leaves Black with a decisive material advantage. Full marks also for 1... Ne2! which has the same idea



# Samurai difficult

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.

<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <tr><td> </td><td>6</td><td> </td><td> </td><td>1</td><td> </td><td> </td><td>9</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>1</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td>3</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td>7</td><td> </td><td>5</td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>4</td><td> </td><td>6</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td>4</td><td>8</td><td>7</td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td> </td><td>1</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td>4</td><td> </td><td> </td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>3</td><td> </td><td> </td><td>8</td><td>5</td><td> </td><td> </td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td>2</td></tr> </table>						6			1			9	8		1				3				3				7		5			5	4		6					1					4	8	7			8		1				2	6		9					4			5		3			8	5			8			4	2	6				2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <tr><td>1</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>9</td><td> </td><td>4</td><td> </td><td>1</td><td> </td><td> </td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td>8</td><td> </td><td> </td><td>9</td><td> </td><td> </td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td>5</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td>7</td><td>3</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td>6</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td>5</td><td> </td><td>2</td><td> </td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td>6</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td>8</td><td> </td><td>6</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td>3</td><td> </td><td> </td><td>2</td></tr> </table>					1										9		4		1			2			8			9			5			5				7	3					6					9	8				5		2		1						6									8		6	9						3			2																											
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9	7							3			5																																																																																																																																																																																											

## 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.

	1			
	<		>	
		>	<	<
		∨		
			^	
2		<		

## 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.

	6	5	3	3	5	3	1	2	
									5
									5
									3
									4
									2
									3
									1
									B

## Sudoku easy

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

## Killer gentle

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.

11	17	13		5	17		6	
		8				7	23	
13			19					16
	5			15		5		
6	16		7		22			
	17	17			13		5	
17			4	16	6	8		12
	6	9				7		
			11		17		9	

## Suko

16		19
22		23

9	20	16
---	----	----

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.

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

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
								R				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			A					D				

## Mini Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6

		5	2		
2	1	4	3	5	6
		5	2	6	1
6	4			3	2

Solutions in tomorrow's Times2

THE  TIMES

MindGames Wednesday May 1 2024  
Brain boost puzzles

# Yesterday's solutions

## SAMURAI

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

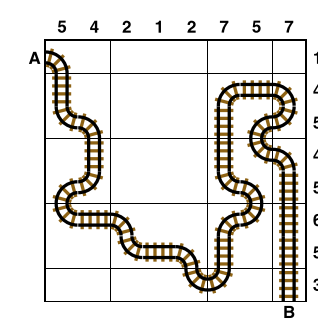
## SUKO

3	4	5
17	12	
9	1	2
25	16	
8	7	6

## MINI SUDOKU

2	1	4	6	5	3
5	6	3	1	2	4
6	5	1	4	3	2
3	4	2	5	6	1
4	2	6	3	1	5
1	3	5	2	4	6

## TRAIN TRACKS



## FUTOSHIKI

1	2	4	>	3	5	
2	4	1	5	3		
^		^				
3	5	2	4	1		
5	>	1	3	>	2	4
				^		
4	3	5	1	<	2	

## SUDOKU

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

## KILLER

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

## CODEWORD

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