**MindGames** 

### 22.01.25

## Sudoku Difficult No 15,561

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

#### Fiendish No 15,562

| 4      | E | 7 |        |   | 7<br>3 | 2 | 8<br>6 |   |                |
|--------|---|---|--------|---|--------|---|--------|---|----------------|
|        | 5 |   |        |   | 3      |   |        |   |                |
| 6<br>7 |   | 1 |        | 4 |        | 3 | 2      |   |                |
| 7      |   | 3 |        |   | 1      |   |        |   |                |
| 8      | 4 |   |        |   |        |   |        |   |                |
|        |   |   |        | 7 | 4      |   |        | 6 |                |
|        |   |   | 2      |   |        | 7 |        |   | UIV            |
|        |   |   | 2<br>8 | 1 | 6      |   | 4      |   | PUIZZIEP MENIA |

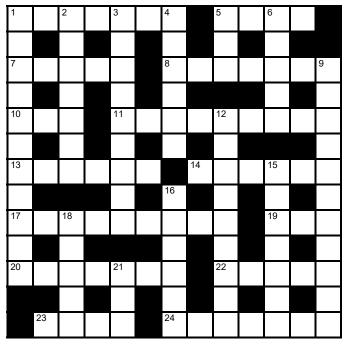
#### Super fiendish No 15,563

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

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**

#### The Times Quick Cryptic No 2892 by Jimmy



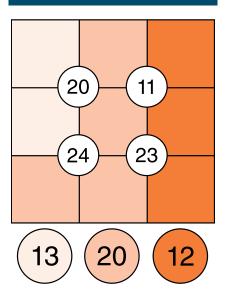
#### Across

- Home for French people, with their pet and their drink (7)
  Infrared screens not seen very
- often (4) 7 Perhaps nosy learner follows explorers of space (5)
- 8 Wonderful choice when ordering a pizza (7)
- 10 Marines protecting India's border (3)
- 11 Destructive compulsion from extremists in party leading
- country (9) 13 Scoundrel that is holding diamonds? This person holds clubs (6)
- 14 Darren failing in task (6)
- 17 Gin and tonic drunk by Oscar in disguise (9)
- 19 Drink and drive from here, by the sound of it? (3)
- 20 Refusal by wife to enter affluent city (7)
- 22 Start working with firm (5)
- 23 Leads of terriers you petted, exceptionally kind (4)
- 24 Individual cutting ripe bananas is an innovator (7)

#### Down 1 To

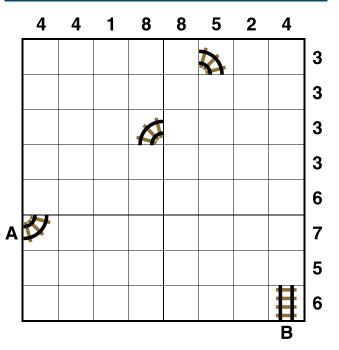
- Tory pamphlet regularly disowns part of Labour (11)
- 2 Supposed fool gets extremely embarrassed about hesitant remark (7)
- 3 Concealing some YouTube clips ingeniously (9)
- 4 Parking during 180-degree spin in vehicle shows improvement (6)
- 5 Agent responds, overlooking false statements (3)
- 6 What monarchs do in inclement weather, we're told (5)
- 9 At sea, mad stranger's an expert on board (11)
- 12 Traveller lifted stuff on top of old Volkswagen (5,4)
- 15 Endless parties entertaining street performer (7)
- 16 Participant in chess game's blunder over pawn (6)
- 18 Bear's track behind vehicle (5)21 Periodically ignored fierce fury
  - (3)

### Suko No 4332



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 2456



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

#### Bouderie

**a** Pouting, sulking **b** A black pudding **c** Bedroom accessories and furniture

#### Flags

**a** Long feathers on the leg of a hawk **b** A lack of conditioning

in horses

c Linseed grains

#### Grübelsucht

**a** A chocolate and apricot cake **b** An author of pulp fiction

**c** Obsessive querying of everything

### THE

## **MindGames**

#### Poker Byron Jacobs

#### King Canute poker

Last week's article touched on the thorny topic of how to handle a mediocre hand. Hero called preflop with 8.4-8.4 then faced a bet on a flop of J\*-7\*-5. Hero is behind versus J-x and higher pairs but folding, for the moment, is out of the question. Villain could have more or less anything so Hero's eights make calling mandatory. The problems arise as the hand progresses and Hero continues to face bets. Must they take the hint and fold or must they call down to avoid being bluffed?

The short answer is they should do a bit of both, depending upon how the hand plays out. In Hero's shoes, the important thing to bear in mind is that it is impossible to play the hand perfectly. Sometimes you will fold when you have the better hand and sometimes you call down only to find you have been losing all along. And you don't need to beat yourself up when either scenario occurs because, along with the famous death and taxes, they are inevitable.

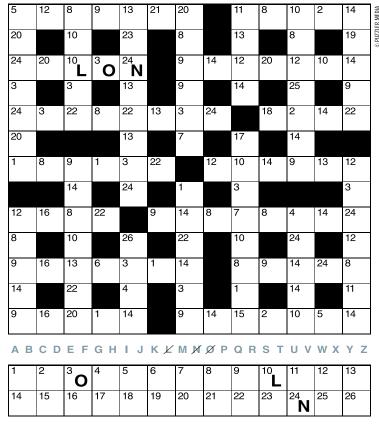
This is worth emphasising, as many players get stuck in their poker development because they are fixated about not making "mistakes". Any time they bluff and get called they are crestfallen. Any time they fold only to discover they had the winning hand, they are mortified. This is the King Canute approach to poker. When playing you will inevitably "go wrong" fairly often. You must realise that when this happens, as long as you are acting in accordance with the information at hand, you are not making "mistakes".

Back to the cards. You call and the turn brings  $J \checkmark -7 \checkmark -5 \diamondsuit -Q \checkmark$ . Villain bets again, fairly big. The  $Q \checkmark$  is bad for you (heart flushes are possible and Q-x also beats you). You should fold. Even if you happen to be ahead you will frequently be outdrawn on the river.

What if the turn is  $J \Psi - 7\Psi - 5 \Phi - 2 \clubsuit$ and the same large bet appears? Unless Villain is a complete nit (super-tight, almost never bluffing) you really have to call. Almost every Villain would bet if they had two hearts, hoping to push you off just the kind of hand you have. So, you call and the river is  $J_{\Psi} - 7\Psi - 5 \Phi - 2 \clubsuit - 9\Phi$ . Villain makes a further sizeable bet. What now?

This is not an easy decision but if poker were an easy game we'd all be brilliant at it. Members of the King Canute tendency are inclined to call. They reason, correctly, that the 2\* and 9\* probably didn't help Villain. So if Villain was bluffing on the flop they are still bluffing now and folding would be one of those dreaded "mistakes". However, unless you are in a high-stakes game, calling is probably wrong. Players at the low-medium stakes rarely bet all three streets as a bluff. Folding is probably best but do your best to exhibit a Zen-like response when an irritating Villain occasionally reveals a bluff to taunt you while they gather in the chips.

| Cod | eword | No 5431 |
|-----|-------|---------|
| CUU |       |         |



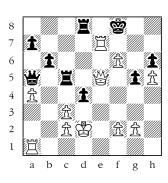
Every letter in this crossword-style grid is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters 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).



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

### Winning Move



#### White to play.

This position is from Golubev-Gusev, Titled Tuesday, chess.com 2024.

Players learning chess are usually alerted to the fact that it is a very good idea to get the king safe at an early stage and subsequently keep it protected. Both players have demonstrated a cavalier disregard for this advice. In such situations the initiative is paramount. How does White crash through?

## THE **TIMES**

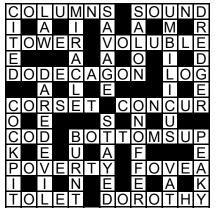
### times2 Crossword No 9747

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

#### Across

- 1 Rock'n'roll or reggae, eg (5) 4 Performed a military
- gesture of respect (7)
- 8 Expressed with rapturous feeling (9)
- 9 Affirmative vote (3)
- 10 Rose fruit (3)
- 11 Fine facial hairs (9)
- 12 Coastal landform (5)

#### Solution to Crossword 9746



- 13 Wrath (5)
- 16 Items of correspondence often sent by tourists (9)
- 18 Exercise centre (3)
- 20 Dove's call (3)
- 21 Type of triangle (9)
- 22 Annual fiscal period (3,4)
- 23 Robust, vigorous (5)

#### Down

- 1 Vernal equinox month (5)
- 2 Chinese dog breed with loose wrinkly skin (4,3)
- 3 Economical (4-9)
- 4 Australian city (6)
- 5 Apathetic, careless (13)
- 6 Educate (5)
- 7 Unit for storing and displaying crockery (7)
- 12 Plagiarist, imitator (7)
- 14 Protective eyewear (7)
- 15 Leafy garden structure (6)
- 17 Native American people (5)
- 19 Untidy (5)

**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).

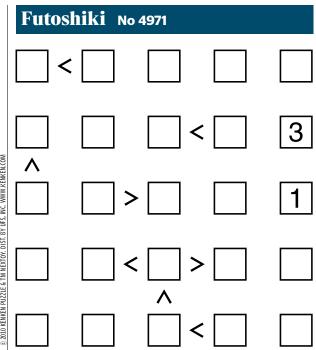
## MindGames

## THE **TIMES**

# MindGames

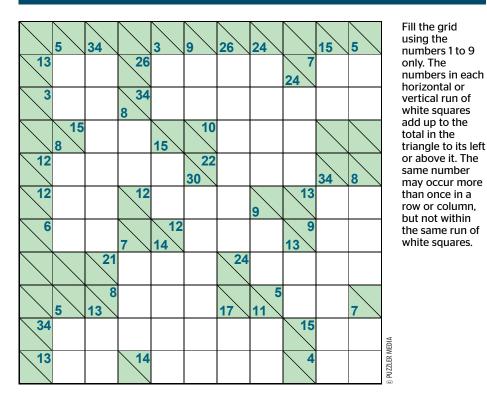
#### KenKen Medium No 6423

| 2— | 2 <del>:</del> |    | 48× | 4— |     |
|----|----------------|----|-----|----|-----|
|    | 2—             |    |     |    | 10+ |
| 6+ |                |    | 11+ |    |     |
| 2— | 11+            | 9+ |     | 6+ | 3   |
|    |                | 5— |     | 8+ |     |
| 1— |                |    |     |    | 3   |



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. 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 3930



**Quintagram**®

Solve all five **cryptic** clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Year after US prosecutor serves time (3)

**2** Extremely short book to write, say (4)

**3** Bad feeling held by Afghan governors (8)

4 Earmark time in holiday resort? (3.5)

**5** Rampaging men-at-arms displaying military equipment (9)

|   |   |   |   | — |   |   | - |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | Α |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | Е |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| М | М |   |   |   |   | R | R |
| S | S | S | Т | Т | v | v | Y |

## THE

# MindGames

### Brain Trainer

Polygon

| easy 41    | x 2   | - 8                        | 1/2<br>OF IT             | + 5  | 1/ <sub>3</sub><br>OF IT   | - 5          | SQUARE<br>IT               | - 9   | ÷ 3                        | ANSWER |  |
|------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------|--|
| MEDIUM 137 | x 5   | - 76                       | 2/ <sub>3</sub><br>OF IT | + 58 | + <sup>1/</sup> 2<br>OF IT | - 44         | 75%<br>OF IT               | - 75  | + <sup>1/</sup> 2<br>OF IT | ANSWER |  |
| HARDER 254 | + 698 | + <sup>1/</sup> 2<br>OF IT | + 543                    | x 3  | + 777                      | 80%<br>OF IT | <sup>11/</sup> 12<br>OF IT | + 898 | 75%<br>OF IT               | ANSWER |  |

From these letters, make words of

four or more letters, always including

the central letter. Answers must be in

capitalised words, plurals, conjugated

verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending

in LY, comparatives and superlatives.

15, good; 21, very good; 27, excellent

meno, mento, mentor, meson, metro,

mot, mote, nome, norm, omen, rem,

sermon, som, some, stem, storm, term,

monster, monte, more, morn, mort, most,

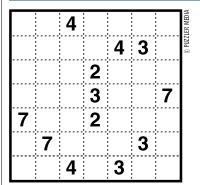
How you rate 11 words, average;

Yesterday's answers

tom. tome

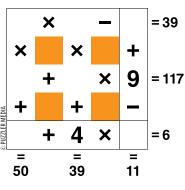
the Concise Oxford Dictionary, excluding

### Cell Blocks No 5314



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.

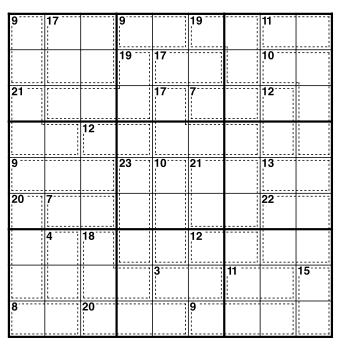
### Set Square No 3933



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 Deadly No 9901



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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### Killer Tricky No 9900

| 18        | 9 | 22 |    | 3  | 10 | 19 | 9        |   |
|-----------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----------|---|
|           |   |    |    |    |    |    | <u> </u> |   |
|           |   |    | 27 |    |    |    | 12       |   |
| · · · · · |   | 12 |    |    | 20 |    |          | 9 |
| 5         |   |    | 10 |    |    | 8  | 22       |   |
| 22        |   |    |    |    |    |    | · · ·    |   |
|           | 9 | 17 | 14 |    | 13 |    | 19       |   |
| 10        |   |    |    | 23 | 11 |    |          |   |
|           |   | -  |    |    | 13 |    |          |   |
| 16        |   | 9  |    | i. |    | 14 |          |   |

Ю

## THE **CONTINES**

## Times Crossword 29,133

|    |    | · · · · · · |   |    |    | Y  | v  |    | v  | v |    |
|----|----|-------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| 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 |    |   |    |
|    |    |             |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |

#### ACROSS

- **1** Jar filled with a colourful liquid (5)
- 4 Out, local female in hat (9)
- 9 Fold last of pages in dictionary inside comic (5,4)
- 10 Monster secure, it's reported (5)
- 11 That man behind alto, when sozzled, can't stand (6)
- 12 Recess measures one metre exactly at the opening, caver finally going in (4,4)
- 14 25 across, or what does that suggest? (5,1,6)
- 17 Humiliate further and give it some welly? (3,3,4,2)
- 20 Fast runners, crooks did you say? (8)
- 21 Weather in Chartres is terrible (6)
- 23 Stand firmly against, do (5)
- 24 Unknown chest found in Rhodes, unexpectedly (4,5)
- 25 Blow a gasket while parked alongside West Indian housing block (2,7)
- **26** Equestrian qualification (5)

#### **DOWN**

- 1 Steal old currency tucked inside thin coat (8)
- 2 I hear about two notes in worship (8)
- 3 Queen hit, Don't Stop Me Now  $(\bar{3},4,4,2,2)$
- 4 Lap up in game (4)
- 5 Villain's broken rank to stop one going up and down (4,6)
- 6 That legion slaughtered, number totally exposed (2,3,10) Wind or gas in thermal? (3,3)
- 7
- 8 One refusing a measure of hose (6)
- 13 Alert operative (8,2)
- 15 Customs finally put foot down when character smuggled in object on domestic flight? (5,3)
- 16 King Charlie not prepared to carry
- key climbing gear (8)
- 18 Diamonds get cooler (3,3)
- 19 Area for planting a bulb regularly lacking soil (6)
- 22 Olympian shows courage having lost lead (4)

#### Yesterday's solution 29,132



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.

## **MindGames**

## THE CONTINES

### **Solutions**

#### Quick Cryptic 2891



Sudoku 15,558

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

#### Sudoku 15,559

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

#### Sudoku 15,560

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

#### Killer 9898

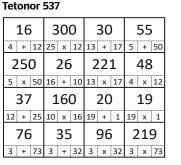
| - M | 4      | 7                                      | 1   | 5   | 8   | 2   | 6   |
|-----|--------|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2   | 1      | .3                                     | 8   | 6   | 5   | 9   | 4   |
| -   | 5      | 2                                      | 4   | -   | 3   | 7   | 1   |
| 3   | 2      | 1                                      | 6   | 4   | 7   | 5   | 8   |
| 8   | 7      | 5                                      | 9   | 2   | 4   | 6   | 3   |
| 5   | 6      | 8                                      | 3   | 7   | 2   | 1   | 9   |
| 4   | 8      | 6                                      | 7   | 1   | 9   | 3   | 5   |
| 1   | 9      | 4                                      | 2   | 3   | 6   | 8   | 7   |
| 7   | 3      | 9                                      | 5   | 8   | 1   | 4   | 2   |
|     | 8<br>5 | 6 5<br>3 2<br>8 7<br>5 6<br>4 8<br>1 9 | 6   5   2     3   2   1     8   7   5     5   6   8     4   8   6     1   9   4 | 6   5   2   4     3   2   1   6     8   7   5   9     5   6   8   3     4   8   6   7     1   9   4   2 | 6   5   2   4   9     3   2   1   6   4     8   7   5   9   2     5   6   8   3   7     4   8   6   7   1     1   9   4   2   3 | 6   5   2   4   9   3     3   2   1   6   4   7     8   7   5   9   2   4     5   6   8   3   7   2     4   8   6   7   1   9     1   9   4   2   3   6 | 6   5   2   4   9   3   7     3   2   1   6   4   7   5     8   7   5   9   2   4   6     5   6   8   3   7   2   1     4   8   6   7   1   9   3     1   9   4   2   3   6   8 |

#### Killer 9899

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

#### Codeword 5430





Cell Blocks 5313

3 3

8

2

2 2 2 2

8

2

2

2

3

1

4

3

3

Futoshiki 4970

5 2 3 4

3 5 2

5 > 2 > 1

1 4 5 2 4 1 < 3

> Word watch Bouderie (a) Pouting,

Flags (a) Long feathers on the leg of a hawk (*Collins*) Grübelsucht (c) Obsessive

querying of everything (OED) Chess – Winning Move 1 Rf7+! Kg8 (1 ... Kxf7 2 Qe7+ Kg8 3 Qg7 mate) 2 Rg7+ Kh8 3 Rh7+! (White insists on giving up the rook) 3 ... Kg8 (Black again declines as 3 ...

Kxh7 4 Qe7+ mates but refusing the bait doesn't help) 4 Qe6+! (now it has to be taken) 4 ... Kxh7 5 Qf7+

Kh8 6 Qg7 mate

#### Set Square 3932

| 500 | oqui        | une e         |                              |                                    |
|-----|-------------|---------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 8   | ×           | 7             | ×                            | 5                                  |
| ÷   |             | ×             |                              | X                                  |
| 1   | +           | 4             | +                            | 6                                  |
| +   |             | —             |                              | +                                  |
| 3   | ×           | 2             | +                            | 9                                  |
|     | ÷<br>1<br>+ | ÷<br>1 +<br>+ | 8 × 7<br>÷ ×<br>1 + 4<br>+ - | 8 × 7 ×<br>÷ × 1<br>1 + 4 +<br>+ - |

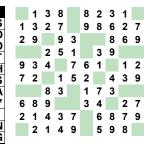
#### KenKen 6422

| 1      | <sup>75×</sup> 5 | 3              | 2<br>1           | <sup>15+</sup>  | <sup>2÷</sup> <b>4</b> | 2          |
|--------|------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------|
| 4      | °⁺<br>2          | 5              | 3                | 4               | <sup>24×</sup>         | 1          |
| ×<br>3 | 3                | 4⁻<br>2        | 6                | 5               | 1                      | 4          |
| _      | 1                | <sup>14+</sup> | 4                | <sup>1−</sup> 2 | 3                      | ⁵ <b>5</b> |
| 2      | 24×<br>6         | 4              | <sup>10×</sup> 5 | 3÷<br>1         | <sup>1−</sup> 2        | 3          |
| 5      | 4                | 1              | 2                | 3               | 5                      | 6          |
|        |                  |                |                  |                 |                        |            |

### **Today's solutions**

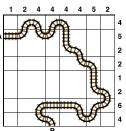
Cryptic Quintagram 1 Day 2 Verb 3 Hangover 4 Set aside 5 Armaments





Kakuro 3929

#### Train Tracks 2455



Lexica 7913

| С | 0 | Ρ | Y |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| А |   | 0 |   | s |   |
| в | 0 | w | Ι | Ν | G |
|   |   | Е |   | А |   |
| F | А | R |   | С |   |
|   |   |   |   | к |   |

#### Lexica 7914

|   | S |   | Q |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U | N | F | U | R | L |
|   | 0 |   | Ι |   | Ι |
| В | U | R | N |   | С |
|   | Т |   | С |   | к |
|   |   | В | E | G |   |

## Suko 4332

7

6

4

Easy 24 Medium 621 Harder 4353

3 L

| Ker              | ıKe                 | n 6              | 422             |                 |     |  |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|--|
| <sup>75×</sup> 5 | 3                   | 2-<br>1          | <sup>15+</sup>  | <sup>2÷</sup> 4 | 2   |  |
| <sup>6+</sup> 2  | 5                   | 3                | 4               | <sup>24×</sup>  | 1   |  |
| 3                | 4-2                 | 6                | 5               | 1               | 4   |  |
| 1                | <sup>14+</sup><br>6 | 4                | <sup>1-</sup> 2 | 3               | ້ 5 |  |
| <sup>24×</sup>   | 4                   | <sup>10×</sup> 5 | 3÷<br>1         | <sup>1–</sup>   | 3   |  |
| 4                | 1                   | 2                | 3               | <sup>1−</sup>   | 6   |  |

| - |     | _ |   |   | _ |
|---|-----|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4   |   | 0 |   |   |
| 3 | ້ 5 | В | U | R |   |
| 2 | 3   |   | т |   |   |
| 1 |     |   |   |   |   |

# **MindGames**

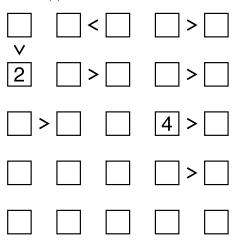
## Samurai difficult

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.

|   |   |   | 4 | 7 |   | 4 |   |   |   |   | l | 0 |   |   |   |   |          |   | 0 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|
| 3 |   |   | 4 | 7 |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   | 8 |   |   | 3 |   |          | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| 9 | 1 |   | 6 |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 4 |   |   |          | 1 | 5 |   |
|   |   |   |   | 8 |   | 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |   |   | 4 |          |   |   |   |
|   |   | 8 | 5 | 6 |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 2 |   |   | 8 |          |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | 9 |   |   |   | 3 |   |   |   |   | 4 |   |   | 6 | 3 | 9        |   |   |   |
| 6 | 3 |   |   |   |   | 7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 2 |   | 7        |   | 4 |   |
| 1 |   |   | 7 |   |   |   |   |   | 4 |   |   |   |   |   | 9 |   |          |   | 3 |   |
|   | 9 | 3 |   | 5 |   |   |   | 4 | 7 |   | 5 |   |   |   | 4 |   |          | 7 |   |   |
|   | 6 | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 6 |   |   |   |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | 2 |   |   |   |   | 3 |   |   |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 3 |   |   | 1 | - |   | 6 |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   | - |   | 9 | - |   |   | - | 3 |   |   |          |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | Ŭ | 7 |   |   |   | • |   |   |          | 5 | 8 |   |
|   |   | 3 |   |   | 1 |   |   |   | 6 | ' | 9 | 4 |   |   |   | 5 |          | 9 | 2 |   |
|   | 9 | 0 |   |   | 8 |   |   |   | 0 |   | 2 | - |   |   |   | 0 | 6        | 0 | ~ | 1 |
|   | 6 |   | 5 |   | 3 |   |   |   |   |   | 2 |   |   | 7 |   |   | <u> </u> | - | 3 | 8 |
|   | 0 |   | 2 | 1 | 6 |   |   | 4 |   |   |   |   | 3 | 1 |   |   | 0        |   | 0 | 0 |
|   |   |   | 2 |   | υ |   | _ | 4 |   |   |   |   | 3 |   |   | 0 | 9        | - |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 7 |   |   | 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 8 |   | 3 | 5        | 7 |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 6 |   |   | 4 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 4 |   | 6 |          |   |   |   |
|   | 1 | 6 |   |   |   | 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |   | 7        |   | 5 | 4 |
| 4 | 3 | 8 |   |   | 7 |   |   | 6 |   |   |   |   |   | 9 |   | 4 | 8        |   |   | 3 |

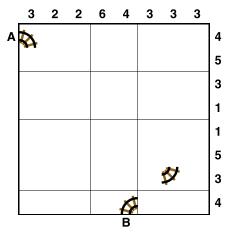
## Futoshiki

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.



## 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.



THE

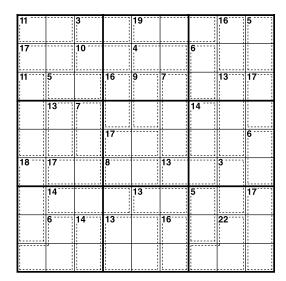
**MindGames** Wednesday January 22 2025 Brain boost puzzles

## Sudoku easy

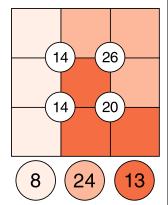
| 1      |        |   |   |   |        |   |   |   |
|--------|--------|---|---|---|--------|---|---|---|
|        |        |   | 7 |   |        | 5 | 1 |   |
|        |        |   | 9 |   | 3      |   | 4 |   |
|        | 1      | 4 |   | 8 |        | 9 |   |   |
| 8      |        |   | 3 |   | 5      |   |   |   |
| 8<br>5 |        | 7 |   | 9 |        | 3 | 8 |   |
|        | 2      |   | 4 |   | 8      |   |   |   |
|        | 2<br>8 | 3 |   |   | 8<br>9 |   |   |   |
|        |        |   | 1 | 2 |        |   |   | 7 |

## 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.



## **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

23 3

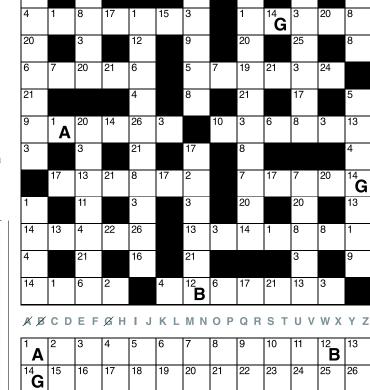
1

17

6

8

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.



3

18

13

12

21 6

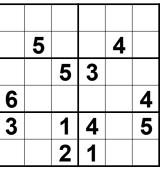
3

13

## Mini Sudoku

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

**Solutions in** tomorrow's Times2

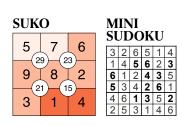




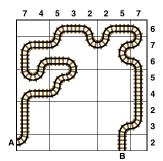
## Yesterday's solutions

#### SAMURAI

|   |   |   | - |   | r |   | _ |   |   |   | 1 |   |   |   |   | _ |   | - |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 5 |   |   |   | 7 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 1 |
| 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 |   |   |   | 1 | З | 9 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 |   |   |   | 5 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 3 |
| 6 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 9 |   |   |   | 8 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 8 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 3 |   |   |   | 2 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 |
| 7 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 4 |   |   |   | 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 2 |
| 3 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| 9 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| 2 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 9 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | 7 | 6 | З | 8 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 6 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | 8 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 9 |
| 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 7 |   |   |   | 8 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 5 |   |   |   | 9 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| 8 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 |   |   |   | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| 4 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 |   |   |   | 3 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| 3 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 4 |   |   |   | 7 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 1 |
| 5 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 |   |   |   | 6 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 5 |



#### **TRAIN TRACKS**



#### **FUTOSHIKI**

| 1   | 4   | 3   | 5   | 2 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| 2 < | < 3 | 4   | 1   | 5 |
| 5   | 1   | 2 < | < 3 | 4 |
| 3   | 2   | 5   | 4   | 1 |
| 4 < | < 5 | 1   | < 2 | 3 |

#### **SUDOKU**

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

#### KILLER

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

#### **CODEWORD**



