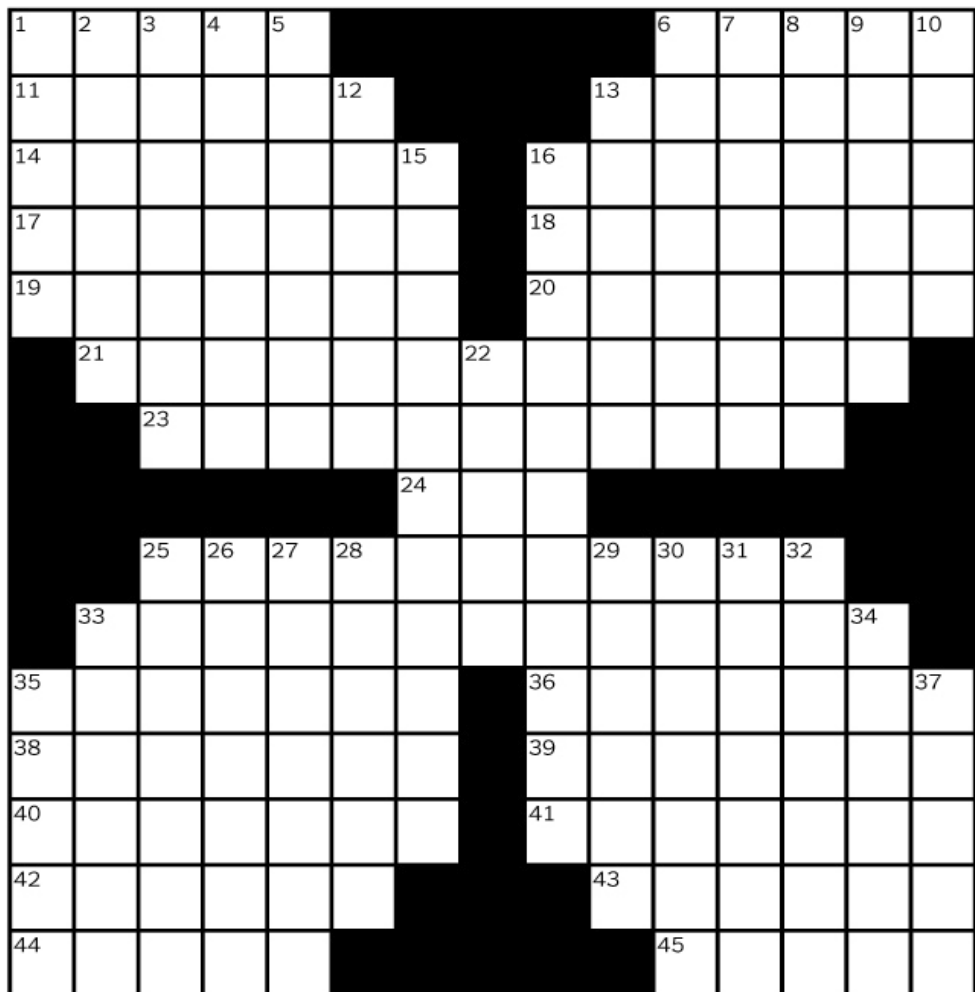


The New York Times crossword



- Across**
- 1 Children's author Eleanor
 - 6 Environment of many old PCs
 - 11 Opposite of ample
 - 13 Grapefruit taste-alike
 - 14 Heated house for newborn chicks
 - 16 Round number?
 - 17 Restless, in scores
 - 18 Go beyond seconds, say
 - 19 Confirmation declaration
 - 20 Some people in costume
 - 21 "This doesn't exactly require a Ph.D."
 - 23 What big banks underwent in 2009
 - 24 ___ B (initial step)
 - 25 They may be studied along with languages
 - 33 What past performance may portend
 - 35 Wild West symbol of authority
 - 36 Practice at a track
 - 38 Went for something else
 - 39 SeaWorld attraction
 - 40 Put people in their places?
 - 41 Activity in "Ghostbusters"
 - 42 Firewood measures
 - 43 Attempt to recall the passed?
 - 44 Stunned, in a way
 - 45 German composer with a palindromic name
 - 13 Quaint, dignified dance for couples
 - 15 Valentine verse starter
 - 16 Reach an agreement
 - 22 Many a red dwarf
 - 25 Things people "do" in the early afternoon
 - 26 Mailbox checker's excited cry
 - 27 Taught a lesson, maybe
 - 28 Goes back on one's word?
 - 29 Same old orders
 - 30 Less congealed
 - 31 Singer Morse with the 1952 hit "The Blacksmith Blues"
 - 32 Giving expression to
 - 33 Piñata-hitting occasion
 - 34 Superlawyer Gerry who wrote "How to Argue and Win Every Time"
 - 35 "___ no one"
 - 37 "Old Time Rock & Roll" rocker

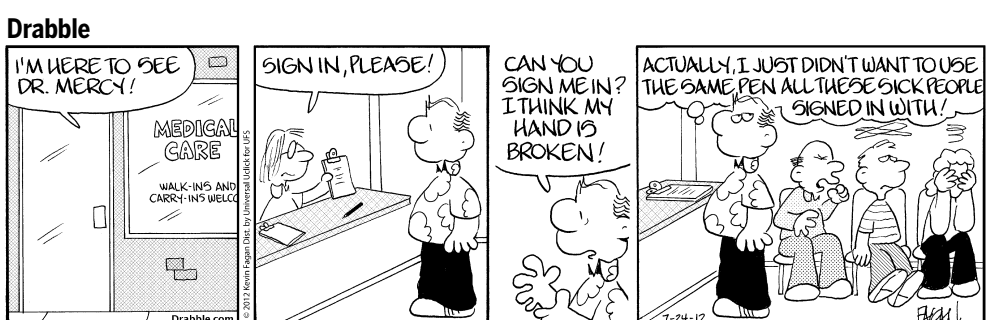
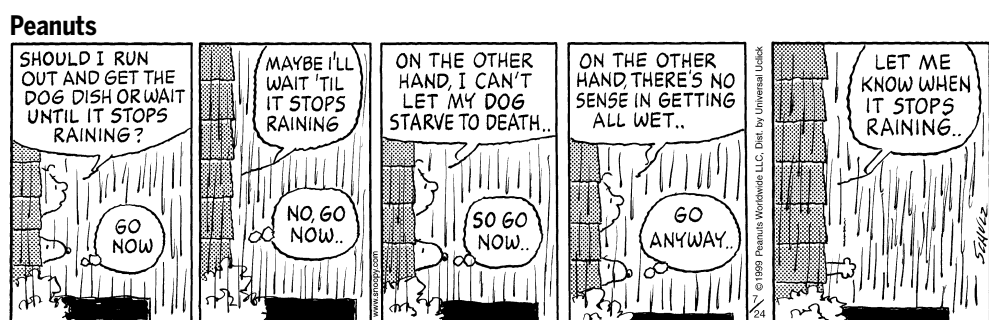
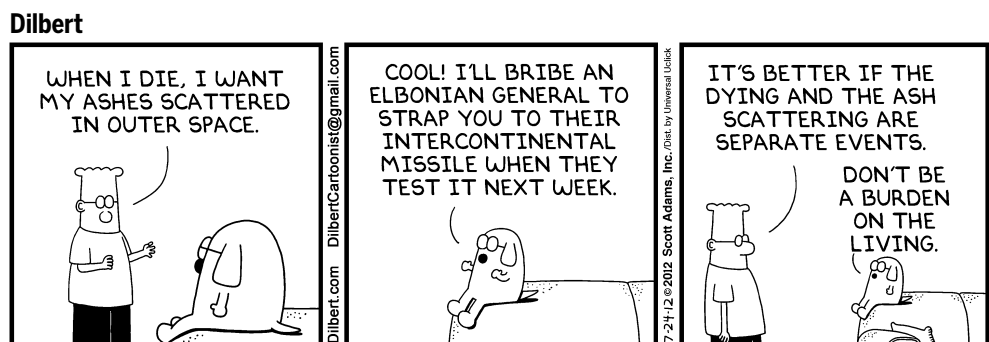
Yesterday's solution



Down

- 1 Enclose in a recess
- 2 Eisenstein who directed "The Battleship Potemkin"
- 3 Some Asian believers
- 4 Hardly the self-effacing sort
- 5 Not so frantic
- 6 Really bothers
- 7 Give a smug look
- 8 Big name in diamonds
- 9 Last name in Chicago lore
- 10 It's unsettling to be out of them
- 12 Patch up, in a

comics



horoscope

- Capricorn** (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)
The possibilities for fulfilling your ambitious objectives are exceptionally good at this point in time. However, it will be up to you to use your gifts to your advantage.
- Aquarius** (JAN. 20-FEB. 19)
You have excellent leadership qualities as well as the ability to be a very good team player. Your teammates will recognize this and want only you as their team captain.
- Pisces** (FEB. 20-MARCH 20)
It isn't likely to be "business as usual" for you at present. Conditions are excellent for you to successfully accomplish something big and especially meaningful.
- Aries** (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)
Mostly because you won't take yourself or life too seriously, you'll do wonders to enhance your probabilities for success. When you make life fun, chores tend to vanish.
- Taurus** (APRIL 20-MAY 20)
If conditions are such that you can haggle over the price of something expensive that you want to buy, by all means do so. A little shrewd bargaining could sweeten the deal considerably.
- Gemini** (MAY 21-JUNE 20)
Although you're a gregarious person, you don't dwell in a world of idle chatter. When you have something important to say, you'll do so with purpose and conviction.
- Cancer** (JUNE 21-JULY 22)
You're well equipped to instinctively handle financial or commercial affairs in a smart, rewarding manner. Use these gifts to put yourself on the right side of the ledger.
- Leo** (JULY 23-AUG. 22)
In pursuing a project that recently captured your attention, bold moves might be necessary. Instead of leaving things up to chance, determine the course of action yourself.
- Virgo** (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)
Just because an idea pops in your head from out of nowhere doesn't mean it lacks worth. If you think it has merit, don't be afraid to implement it. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
- Libra** (SEPT. 23-OCT. 23)
A brilliant but incomplete idea of yours might find its soul mate. A simpatico new acquaintance might supply you with the missing factors.
- Scorpio** (OCT. 24-NOV. 22)
Go ahead, ignore the foothills and scale the mountains. Your chart indicates that you're up to doing things in a big way, so don't waste time on petty, meaningless endeavors.
- Sagittarius** (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)
Your powers of persuasion are exceptionally strong. You shouldn't have any trouble getting others to support the ideas you espouse, once they understand the benefits in store.

bridge

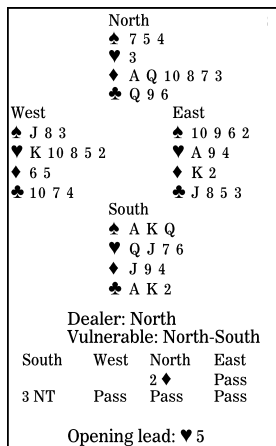
Winston Churchill said, "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

It can be courageous (correct) to stand up or sit down (play high or low) at the bridge table. Which is right in this deal? South is in three no-trump. West leads fourth-highest from his longest and strongest, the heart five. East wins with his ace and returns the nine, the higher of two remaining cards. What happens now?

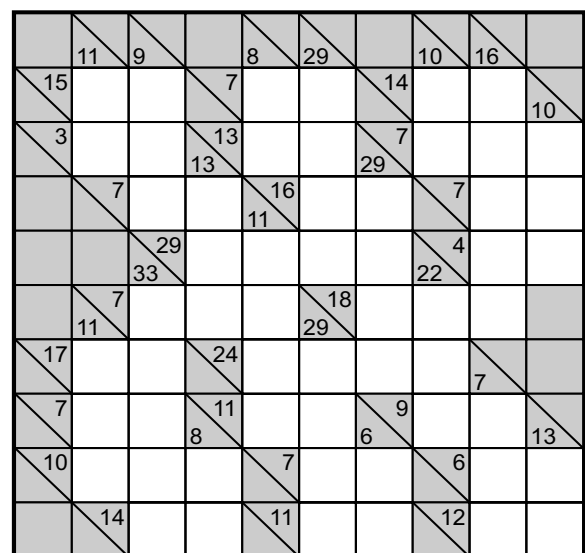
North opened with a weak two-bid, showing a respectable six-card suit and 6 to 10 high-card points. South bid what he thought he could make.

When in no-trump, always count your top tricks, your immediate winners. Here, South has seven: three spades, one diamond and three clubs. There are four or five more tricks available from the diamonds. What is the danger to the contract?

If the hearts are 5-3 and the diamond finesse is losing, the defenders might take one diamond and four hearts.



kakuro



A Kakuro consists of a playing area of filled and empty cells similar to a crossword puzzle. Some black cells contain a diagonal slash from top left to bottom right with numbers in them, called "the clues". A number in the top right corner relates to an "across" clue and one in the bottom left a "down" clue. The object of a Kakuro is to insert digits from one to nine into the white cells to total the clue associated with it. However no digit can be duplicated in an entry.

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

Yesterday's solution

language tips

BETTER CHINESE

女人必备 (nǚ rén bì bèi)
Women's must-haves

首先你要漂亮。你要是不漂亮，那么请你有气质。你要是没气质，那么你要温柔。你要是不温柔，那么你要善解人意。你要是不大善解人意，那么你要长得还可以。你要是长得有点抱歉，那么你起码要会打扮。

(shǒu xiān nǐ yào piào liàng 。 nǐ yào shì bù piào liàng , nǎ me qìng nǐ yǒu qì zhì 。 nǐ yào shì méi qì zhì , nǎ me nǐ yào wēn róu 。 nǐ yào shì bù wēn róu , nǎ me nǐ yào shàn jiě rén yì 。 nǐ yào shì bù tài shàn jiě rén yì , nǎ me nǐ yào zhǎng dé hái kě yǐ 。 nǐ yào shì zhǎng dé yǒu diǎn bào qiǎn , nǎ me nǐ qǐ mào yào huì dǎ bàn 。)

First of all, you must be pretty. If you are not pretty, you must be elegant. If you are not elegant, you must be gentle. If you are not gentle, you must be understanding. If you are not understanding, you must look pleasant. If you don't look pleasant, you should at least be fashionable.

你要是连打扮都不懂，那么你就得贤惠一点。你要是不贤惠，那么你就得跟妈妈学做家务事。你要是学都懒得学，那么你就得拉下脸“倒追”男人。你要是连“倒追”都不会，那么你最好家里有钱。你要是家里连钱都没有，那么……你就靠“缘分”吧！

(nǐ yào shì lián dǎ bàn dōu bù dǒng , nǎ me nǐ jiù dé xián huì yì diǎn 。 nǐ yào shì bù xián huì , nǎ me nǐ jiù yào gēn mā mā xué zuò diǎn jiā wù shì 。 nǐ yào shì xué dōu lǎn dé xué , nǎ me nǐ jiù yào lā xià liǎn "dǎo zhuī" nán rén 。 nǐ yào shì lián "dǎo zhuī" dōu bù huì , nǎ me nǐ zài hǎo jiā li yǒu qián 。 nǐ yào shì jiā li lián qián dōu méi yǒu , nǎ me nǐ jiù kào "yuán fèn" ba !)

If you are not fashionable, you have to be virtuous. If you are not virtuous, you should learn how to do household chores from your mother. If you are too lazy to learn that, you have to give up your dignity to court a man. If you don't even know how to go after a man, then you'd better come from a rich family. If you don't even have a rich family, then you have to depend on "destiny".

— From Chinese Humorous Stories, by Liang Yanmin. Beijing Language and Culture University Press.

BETTER ENGLISH

Shoo-in

But don't think that Cray was a shoe-in for the NERSC-7 deal, as this roadmap toward exascale computing for the Berkeley Lab shows.

My comments:

Shoo-in. Shoo. Not shoe, nothing to do with shoes.

Shoo is the sound one makes to a small child or animal to make them go away.

If you have ever raised a group of chickens in a courtyard, you would definitely have said, "Shoo!" a lot every day. In fact, at dusk when you want to usher the chickens into the cage for the night, you say "shoo" to achieve the purpose.

In other words, you "shoo" the chickens into the cage, hence the term "shoo-in", the noun form of shooing the animals in.

To shoo the chicks into the cage is no big deal, something easy to accomplish. Therefore, to say someone is a shoo-in for, say, the presidency, is to suggest the presidency is easily his to win.

In other words, for him to win the presidency is as easy as, using our example again, shooing a few chickens into their cage.

Zhang Xin, who writes a column for Language Tips, has been with China Daily since 1988.

— To ask a question about learning English, please go to <http://translate.chinadaily.com.cn>.

A NATIONAL FAMOUS BRAND PRODUCTION
"The Legend of Kungfu takes Beijing into a new era of modern theatrical performance" —Metropolis Magazine

CHUNYI
THE LEGEND OF KUNGFU

Daily: 5:15 pm, 7:30 pm
The Red Theater
44 Xing Fu Da Jie, Dongcheng District
红剧场 (北京东城区工人文化宫) 幸福大街44号
Ticket price: RMB680 (VIP), 380, 280, 180 (30% discount for students)
TEL: 67103671 / 67142473 / 67140497
FAX: 67140497 www.heaven-creation.com

Chaoyang Theatre
Acrobatics Macrocosm

Widely known for its immaculate and spellbound acrobatic performances, Chaoyang Theatre is a must-go destination for tourists who visit Beijing.

Time: 5:15-6:15 pm / 7:15-8:30 pm, daily
Tel: 86-10-65072421 / 65060838 / 65068116 / 65060837
Prices: 180, 280, 380, 580, 680, 880 yuan
Venue: Chaoyang Theatre, No. 36, Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District, Beijing
Website: www.bjcyj.com