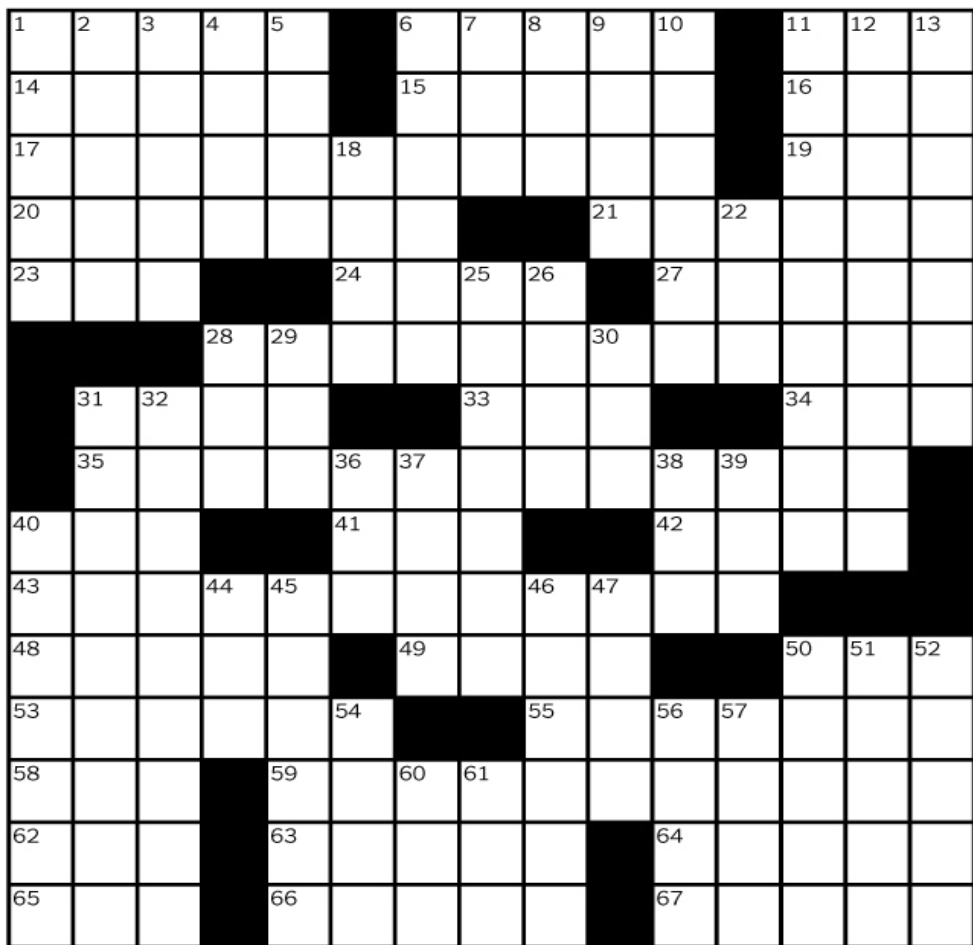


The New York Times crossword

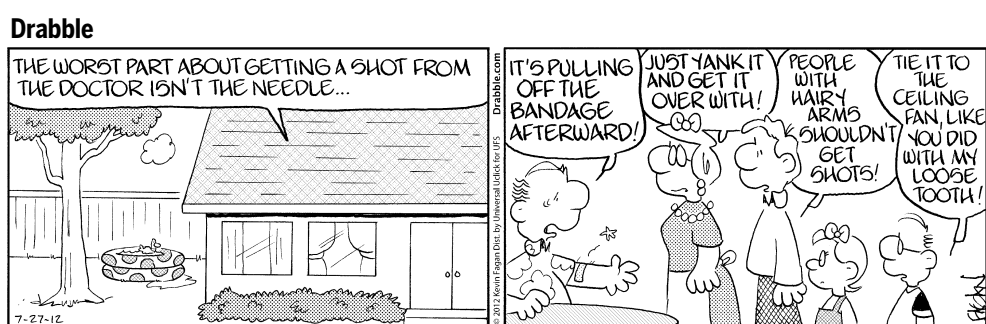
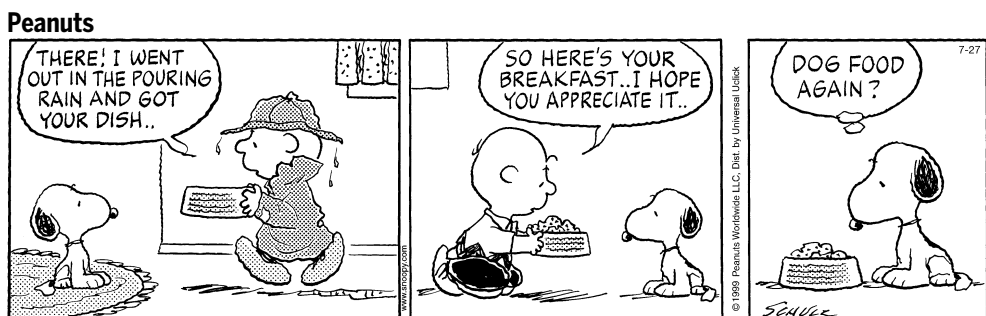
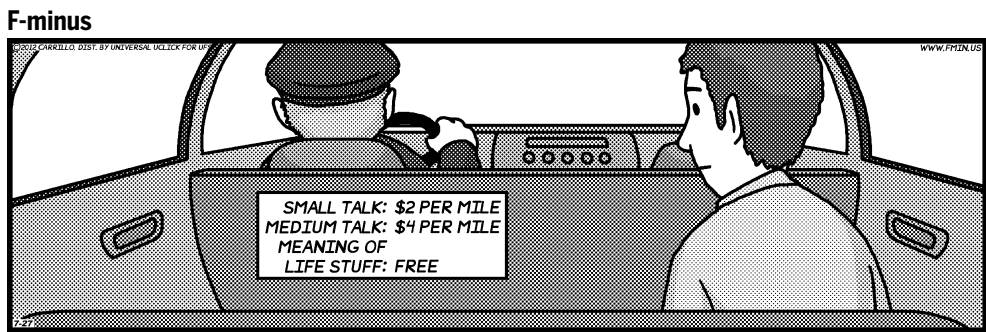
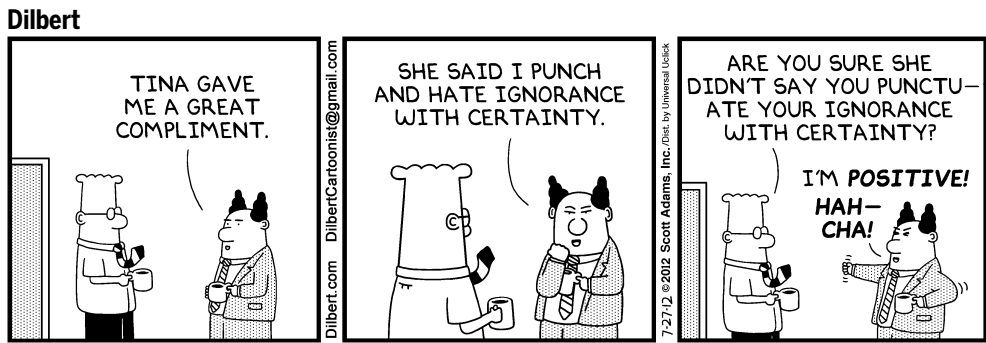


- Across**
- 1 Add zip to, with "up"
 - 6 Island north of Australia
 - 11 Deserving detention, say
 - 14 Maritime raptors
 - 15 Farsi speaker
 - 16 Suffix with glob
 - 17 Boring predicaments?
 - 19 C.F.O.'s deg., perhaps
 - 20 Market researcher
 - 21 Keep from practicing
 - 23 Wet behind the ears
 - 24 Defense acronym
 - 27 Nick of "Warrior"
 - 28 Tulip planters, perhaps?
 - 31 "I got ___ in Kalamazoo"
 - 33 Wrestling's Flair
 - 34 Sci-fi sidekick, maybe
 - 35 Strong advocates of margarine?
 - 40 Classified ad inits.
 - 41 Wet behind the ears
 - 42 Sources of vitamin C
 - 43 Bring Ebert and Moore together?
 - 48 When brunch may be served
 - 49 Art school subj.
 - 50 Poker champ Ungar
 - 53 "We're on!"
 - 55 Nose-in-the-air
 - 58 Blistex target
 - 59 Expert ladder climbers?
 - 62 Subgenre of punk
 - 63 Hyundai model
 - 64 One of Israel's 12
 - 65 Police dept. rank
 - 66 Wear black, say
 - 67 "So ___ to offend..."
 - 22 Get completely wet, in dialect
 - 25 Donned hastily
 - 26 Valhalla V.I.P.
 - 28 Brooklynese pronoun
 - 29 Final: Abbr.
 - 30 Bump off
 - 31 "Finally!"
 - 32 Celebrity's talk show appearance, say
 - 36 Goof up
 - 37 ___ avis
 - 38 Scratch up
 - 39 Passports, e.g., in brief
 - 40 Sent with a click
 - 44 ___ Party
 - 45 Memory trace
 - 46 Certain meter reader
 - 47 "At Last" singer James
 - 50 Yarn purchase
 - 51 Engine type
 - 52 Like some stomachs and elections
 - 54 Liqueur similar to Sambuca
 - 56 Racket org.
 - 57 N.F.L.
 - 60 Opposite of old, in Germany
 - 61 [I'm mad!]

Yesterday's solution



comics

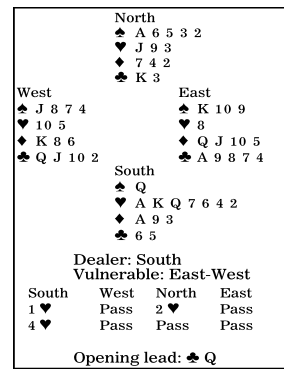


horoscope

- Capricorn** (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)
If at all possible, try to devote as much time as you can to a new endeavor that has recently captured your fancy. Chances are it will turn out to be lucky for you.
- Aquarius** (JAN. 20-FEB. 19)
Don't waste your time on goals of small significance. Instead, focus your efforts on an objective that could result in a major accomplishment once you put your mind to it.
- Pisces** (FEB. 20-MARCH 20)
You might even surprise yourself as to how well you fare when you have total faith in what you want to accomplish. With this mindset, don't squander your energy on small potatoes.
- Aries** (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)
Even if you aren't the one to initiate a wonderful opportunity to do something important with your friends, your participation in it will help make the endeavor a great success.
- Taurus** (APRIL 20-MAY 20)
Dealing with others on a one-on-one basis is something that comes naturally to you. Seek out just such an encounter if an important matter needs to be discussed.
- Gemini** (MAY 21-JUNE 20)
Free time won't be an issue for you, and that's as it should be. With a plate full of things that need tending, your only problem is which to do first.
- Cancer** (JUNE 21-JULY 22)
Taking some time to smell the roses would be a rewarding choice for you. Spend a few hours resting in a way that will benefit you both mentally and physically.
- Leo** (JULY 23-AUG. 22)
Victory will not be denied you if you are tenacious about finishing whatever you start. You'll find that you'll get stronger with each endeavor as the end draws closer.
- Virgo** (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)
You're a better than average negotiator, so don't hesitate to do some haggling if you are displeased with an arrangement that you have with another. The terms aren't carved in stone.
- Libra** (SEPT. 23-OCT. 23)
If you know there are certain things that can be done that will help advance your financial health, by all means do them. It does no good to postpone action once again.
- Scorpio** (OCT. 24-NOV. 22)
Do your own thing, because you'll perform best in situations where you have the freedom to act in an independent manner. If you must mingle with others, be a leader, not a follower.
- Sagittarius** (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)
Something is going on behind the scenes that will end up benefiting you when it is fully disclosed. You might get your first inkling of it today.

bridge

Helen Rowland, a journalist and humorist who died in 1950, said, "Before marriage, a man declares that he would lay down his life to serve you; after marriage, he won't even lay down his newspaper to talk to you."



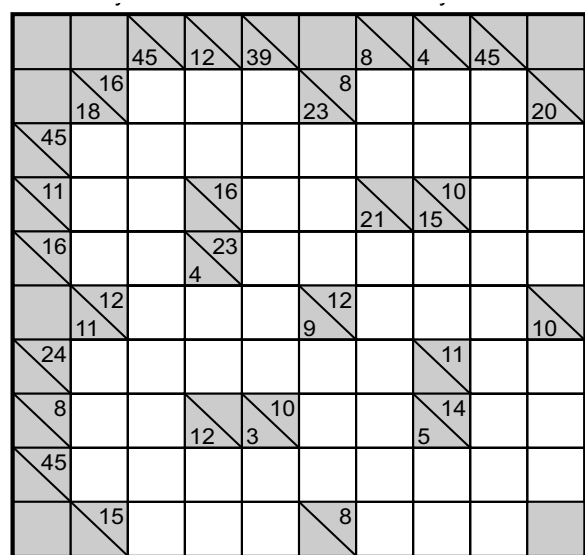
Surely not! Now let's move to a bridge contract that requires a finesse for success. In real life, it might or might not succeed. In a newspaper column, it is certain to work. A columnist won't show a hopeless contract unless there is some defensive point.

As an example, in this deal South is in four hearts. West leads the club queen. The defenders take two tricks in the suit, then shift to diamonds, taken by declarer's ace. How should South continue? There seem to be four unavoidable minor-suit losers. The only chance for a 10th trick is to establish dummy's fifth spade. But that requires four dummy entries: three for ruffing spades in hand and one to get back to the dummy to cash the last spade. What must those entries be?

The spade ace and all three trumps – so care is needed.

Declarer plays a spade to dummy's ace and ruffs a spade with a middle trump. Then he bravely leads a middle trump to dummy's nine. West is more likely to have 10-doubleton than East will have 10-singleton. South ruffs a spade high, plays his last middle heart to dummy's jack, and ruffs another spade high. Then he leads the carefully conserved heart two to dummy's three and triumphantly cashes the last spade. Finally, the defenders will discuss how they could have found the killing trump shift at trick three.

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.

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

Yesterday's solution

language tips

BETTER CHINESE

假想 (jiǎ xiǎng) Supposition
军事学校操场上，有一队学生正在练习跑步。教官说：“你们可以假想自己正在骑着自行车，这样你们就会轻松多了。”
(jūn shì xué xiào cāo chǎng shàng , yǒu yī duì xué shēng zhèng zài liànxí pǎobù 。 jiāo guān shuō : “ nǐ men kě yǐ jiǎ xiǎng zì jǐ zhèng zài qí zhe zì xíng chē , zhè yàng nǐ men jiù huì qīng sōng duō le 。 ”)

At the military school's playground, students were practicing running. The drillmaster said: "You may suppose that you are riding a bicycle. That'll make you fall easier."

听了教官的话，一名学生忽然一动不动地站住了。教官问他为什么不跑了。“报告教官，我的自行车正在下坡。”
tīng le jiāo guān de huà , yī míng xué shēng hū rán yí dòng bù dòng de zhàn zhù le 。 jiāo guān wèn tā wèi shén me bù pǎo le 。
“ bào gào jiāo guān , wǒ de zì xíng chē zhèng zài xià pō 。 ”

Hearing this, one of the students stopped all of a sudden. The drillmaster asked him why. "Sir! My bicycle is going downhill."

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

BETTER ENGLISH

三公消费“超支”可撤职

新签署的《机关事务管理条例》规定，超预算、超标准开支“三公经费”或者挪用其他预算资金用于“三公消费”情节严重的，由任免机关或者监察机关对责任人员给予降级或撤职处分。

Overspending就是“超支”，即花费超过预算，类似用法还有 overspend one's income (入不敷出)。

For example:

Officials face removal from their posts if they are found overspending on vehicles, receptions and overseas trips, according to a new regulation released on Monday.

周一发布的《机关事务管理条例》规定，将给予三公消费超支的官员撤职的处分。

“三公”即“公务招待、公车、及因公出国”，英文用“official receptions, vehicles and overseas trips”来表示。新条例规定须将三公消费纳入预算，超支或是 misappropriates funds from other budget items (挪用其他预算资金) 用于三公消费的官员可能面临 demotion (降级) 或 removal from post (撤职) 处分。

在公车使用方面，条例规定不得 retain more official vehicles than the allowed quota (超编制配备公务用车)、不得 spending more than allowed on official cars (超标准配备公务用车)、不得为公务用车增加 high-grade configuration (高档配置) 或者豪华 interior decoration (内饰) 等。

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