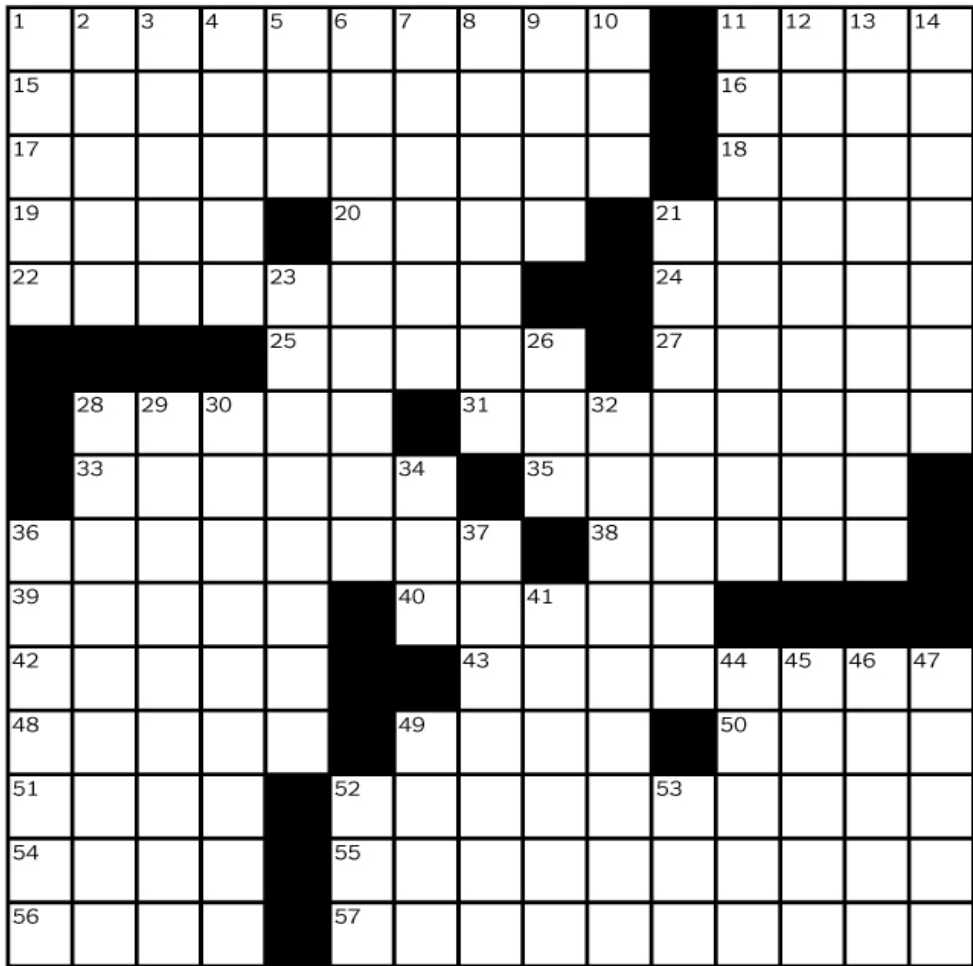
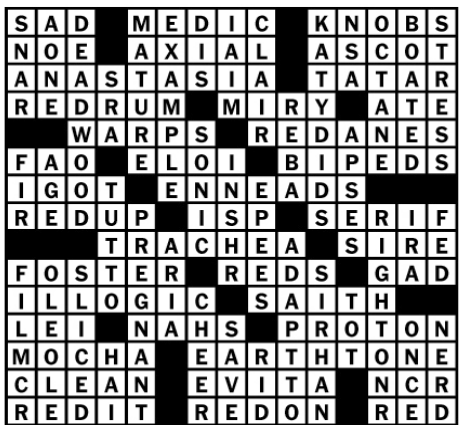


The New York Times crossword

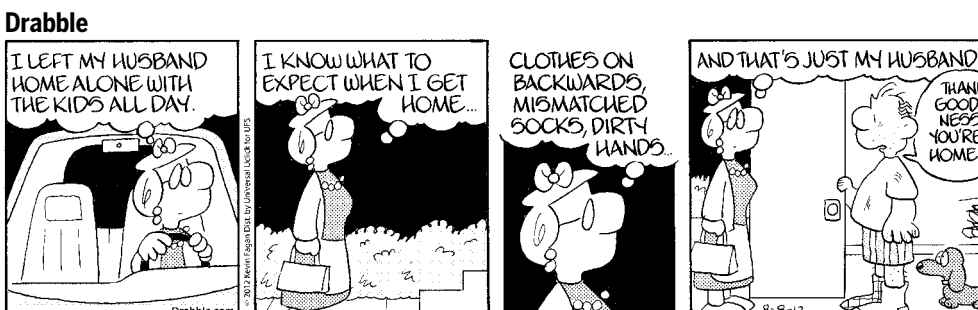
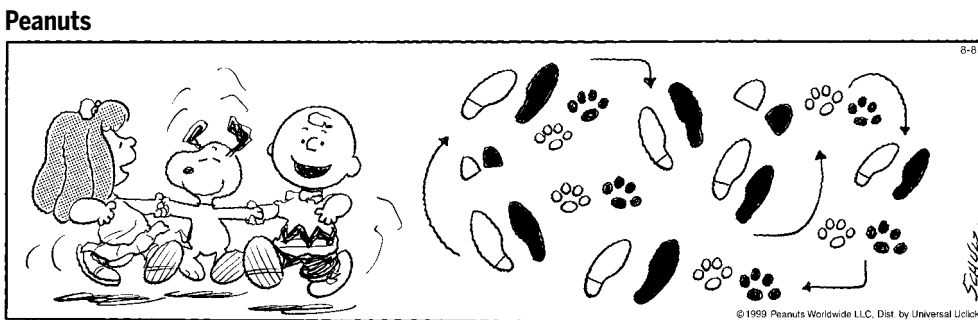
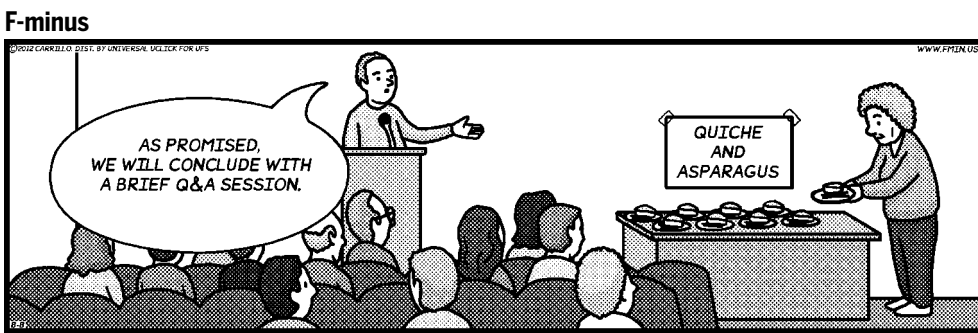


- Across: 1 Field agents? 11 Amount to 15 Home of Owens Corning Corporation... Down: 1 Shortchange 2 Duck and quail 3 '___ Walk' (Frost poem)...

Yesterday's solution



comics

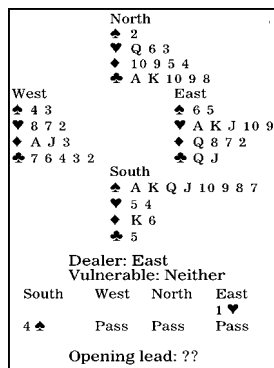


horoscope

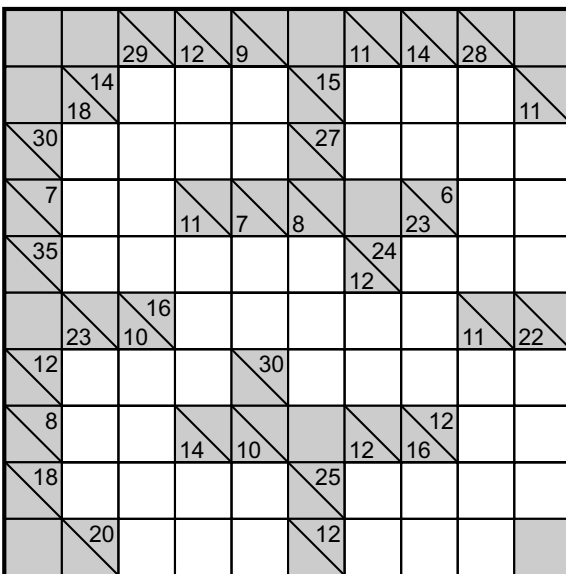
- Capricorn (DEC. 22-JAN. 19) Knowledge and experience can be your best allies. Aquarius (JAN. 20-FEB. 19) Sitting down with a good friend whom you trust would be an extremely beneficial thing to do. Pisces (FEB. 20-MARCH 20) Gossip you've heard concerning a good friend will be either verified or disproved through conversations with others.

bridge

Cleveland Amory, an author and advocate of animal rights who died in 1998, said: 'As anyone who has ever been around a cat for any length of time will know, cats have enormous patience with the limitations of the human kind.' As anyone who has ever been around a bridge table for any length of time should well know, telling partner the length of your holding in his suit may be vital. This week we are looking at playing the right spot cards. In this deal, East opens one heart, South jumps to four spades, and everyone passes. What should West lead? Note South's four-spade overall. He needs so little from partner to make game laydown. (The diamond ace is sufficient.) Also, given East's opening bid, it is unlikely that his side can make a slam. Four spades is so much more likely to inconvenience the responder than miss a slam. When making the opening lead, the general principle is that a low card from a three-card or longer suit guarantees at least one honor in that suit. However, when leading partner's unsupported suit, the rules are high from a doubleton; or low from three-plus, even without an honor in the suit. Here, West must lead the heart two. Then, after East wins with his nine and cashes the ace, he will know that South is out of hearts. East will shift to the diamond two (low guaranteeing an honor in that suit), and the defense will win the first four tricks. If West leads the heart eight, that shows a singleton or a doubleton. East will expect to cash a third heart trick, but South will ruff, draw trumps and run the clubs for an overtrick.



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.

language tips

BETTER CHINESE

1. 中秋节 (zhōng qiū jié) The Mid-Autumn Festival 在农历八月十五, 因为这一天是秋季的正中, 所以叫做“中秋”。它是中国传统的家人团圆的节日, 有吃月饼和拜月的习俗。

(zài nóng lì bā yuè shí wǔ yīn wèi zhè yī tiān shì qiū jì de zhèng zhōng , suǒ yǐ jiào zuò "zhōng qiū" 。 tā shì zhōng guó chuán tǒng de jī rén tuán yuán de jié rì , yǒu chī yuè bǐng hé bài yuè de xī sú 。)

The Mid-Autumn Festival occurs on the 15th day of the 8th month in the lunar calendar. It is a traditional festival when Chinese families get together, eat moon cakes, and worship the moon.

2. 生肖 (shēng xiào) Chinese zodiac

生肖又叫“属相”, 本是用以纪年的一套符号, 是古代天文历法的一部分, 后来成了民间信仰的一部分。生肖信仰中非常重要的一部分是本命年的观念。一个人出生那年是农历什么年, 那以后每到这一属相年便是此人的本命年。

(shēng xiào yòu jiào "shǔ xiàng" , běn shì yòng yǐ jì nián de yī tào fú hào , shì gǔ dài tiān wén lì fǎ de yī bù fèn , hòu lái chéng le mǐn jiān yìn yǎng de yī bù fèn 。 shēng xiào yìn yǎng zhōng fēi cháng zhòng yào de yī bù fèn shì běn mìng nián de guān niàn 。 yī ge rén chū shēng nà nián shì nóng lì shén me nián , nà yǐ hòu měi dào zhè yī shǔ xiàng nián biàn shì cǐ rén de běn mìng nián 。)

Chinese zodiac animals were originally symbols used to count the years in the Chinese calendar, as well as part of ancient astronomy. They have since become part of the belief system of the Chinese people. A very important part of this belief is the ideology of the year of one's animal sign. When a year with the same sign as the year in which a person was born arrives, that is the person's zodiac year.

— From Read Stories and Learn Chinese, by Li Jin and Tian Zhuhua. Beijing Language and Culture University Press.

BETTER ENGLISH

什么是“软福利”？ Soft benefit

Soft benefit is a type of non-monetary compensation offered by employers to members of their staff for performing their jobs. Many senior employees are offered a valuable soft benefit or perk like a company car instead of money as part of their overall remuneration.

Soft benefit(软福利)指雇主对员工提供的非金钱性质的工作报酬补偿。比如, 很多资深员工都会享受到公司配车等高价值软福利作为他们工作报酬的一部分。

In a tight labor market, companies are adding 'soft' benefits, such as free trips or child-care services, so they can hold on to the talent they have.

在劳动力市场紧缩的情况下, 各公司都会增加诸如免费旅游或者小孩看护服务等“软福利”来留住人才。

— To learn more buzzwords, please log on to http://language.chinadaily.com.cn. Follow us on Sina Weibo at http://weibo.com/languagetips.

Advertisement for 'The Legend of Kungfu' at The Red Theater, featuring a national famous brand production and performance details.

Advertisement for Chaoyang Theatre Acrobatics Macrocosm, highlighting widely known acrobatic performances and venue information.