

SUDOKU High Fives

Five 9x9 Sudoku grids for 'High Fives' puzzle.

HOW TO PLAY: Sudoku High Fives consists of five regular Sudoku grids sharing one set of 3-by-3 boxes. Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition. The numbers in any shared set of 3-by-3 boxes apply to each of the individual Sudokus.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

Grids and solutions for the previous puzzle.

KENKEN THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER. EASY, CHALLENGING, RULES, and Puzzle Answers.

TV JUMBLE by David L. Hoyt. Use the clues to help unscramble the four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four words.

How does F-150 get same mileage in city and highway?



BY RAY MAGLIOZZI refrigerator-freezer and your heated hot tub. \* \* \*

Dear Car Talk: My newspaper featured an ad for the 2021 Ford F-150 pickup. The ad said it has an Environmental Protection Agency fuel economy estimate of "24 mpg city/24 highway/24 combined." That sounds crazy to me. How can you get the same mileage making all the starts and stops in city driving that you can just flowing down the highway? — Matt With a hybrid powertrain, Matt. Those figures are what the EPA reports for the hybrid F-150 four-wheel drive under ideal conditions. The two-wheel drive did even better. Your own mileage may vary, as they say. And it almost always varies for the worse. But I wouldn't be surprised if, in the real world, city mileage in that truck turned out to be better than highway mileage. Here's why. The F-150 has a 3.5-liter V6 gasoline engine that's tuned to work with a 47 hp electric motor. Around town, the truck makes good use of that battery-powered electric motor, using it for lots of the typical stop-and-go driving that ruins gasoline engine fuel economy. When you need more power, like when you want to accelerate quickly or if you're pulling a heavy load, the gasoline engine kicks in, too. But in stop-and-go traffic, the electric motor does a lot of the heavy lifting. On the highway, things are reversed. You're primarily using the gasoline engine, with a boost from the electric motor when needed, like when you're carrying a horse trailer full of in-laws to a family reunion. A non-hybrid four-wheel drive F-150 with a similar 3.5L V6 gets 18 mpg city (vs. 24 city for the hybrid) and gets 23 mpg highway (vs. 24 highway for the hybrid). So the hybrid improves the highway mileage by about 4% but boosts city mileage by 33%. The other cool thing about the hybrid F-150 is that it also comes with an AC inverter that lets you use the hybrid battery as a source of electricity when you're working at a job site. Or if you live in Texas. With the standard 2.4kW inverter that comes with the truck, you can plug in your air compressor or your tool chargers. And with the larger, optional 7.2kW inverter, you can plug in your 80-inch OLED TV, your LG French door

Dear Car Talk: I have a 2016 manual Honda Fit. Sometimes upon ignition, there is a loud whirring noise under the hood that lasts a couple of seconds. The car runs well, but the noise concerns me. Any thoughts? Thanks. — Alan My first thought is that you could have a slipping belt. A cold belt that's worn out will often slip right when you start the car. And then, within a few seconds, the slipping friction heats it up enough so it grabs, and the noise stops. My second thought — which is the thought I like best — is that you have a bad starter drive. When you turn the key or push the starter button to start the engine, there's a small gear called the starter drive that shoots out of the starter and engages with a bigger gear — called the ring gear — on the flywheel. Turning the flywheel is what gets the engine going. Once the engine reaches a certain speed and is running on its own, that starter drive is supposed to retract back into the starter. The starter's job is done. But if your starter drive isn't retracting right away — if it's sticky or lazy due to a faulty overriding clutch — it'll grind against the ring gear after the car starts and make a whirring, gnashing noise. It's not great for the ring gear, so it's something that should be fixed. So my third thought is that you should take it to a mechanic, Alan. Leave the car with him overnight if need be, so he can hear the noise. A trained mechanic will be able to tell the difference between a bad starter drive and a slippery belt in two seconds. Or as we call it in the business, "two hours of labor." Good luck, Alan.

Got a question about cars? Write to Ray in care of King Features, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803, or email by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY CROSSWORD THEY ALL LAUGHED No. 0321

By Jacob Stulberg / Edited by Will Shortz

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

Answers to the previous crossword puzzle.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021

Pull out all the stops and concentrate on what you want to achieve this year. Settling into a new lifestyle will encourage personal growth, new friendships and a chance to rework your resume. ARIES (March 21-April 19): Pay attention to what you have and who you love. Reach out; encouragement and what you receive in return pay off. TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Think before you act or say something you'll regret. Pay more attention to unfinished business and less to what others are doing. GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll get a pick-me-up if you take time out to pamper yourself. The time spent relaxing will encourage you to use your time more efficiently. Romance is encouraged. CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take better care of your health. A tempting offer will not be in your best interest. Look for a unique way to use your time and skills to benefit you financially. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stop worrying about what everyone wants you to do; start doing what makes you happy. Take the time to sort out your feelings.

MISS MANNERS

By Judith Martin, Nicholas Ivor Martin and Jacobina Martin

Dear Miss Manners: Can you share with us the origins of the guidance never to discuss religion and politics at social gatherings? Or the numerous variations of that rule? I'm a wonderful internet sleuth, but this one eludes me. And what is your guidance on the topic, especially given the precarious state of our democracy and the rampant spread of mis- and disinformation?

Dear Gentle Reader: Have you tried talking with someone with whom you disagree? Had this not been an old rule, designed to free social life from cantankerous strife, Miss Manners would have had to invent it. She would abandon the rule if she could hope to welcome an exchange of ideas. But people no longer exchange ideas; they exchange insults. This is not new, just particularly bad right now. The rule surely dates to the first time someone countered a statement with, "Then you must be an idiot" instead of, "Why do you think that?"

Dear Miss Manners: Eating with one's hands is not bad manners in many cultures. As a matter of fact, there is an elaborate code of manners on how to eat with one's hands: How much of the fingers can be dipped into the rice or curry? Can the fingers be licked or not? What is the best way to get delicious bites out of the intricate crevices of the lamb shoulder bones without looking like a slob? If good manners forbid eating with one's hands, how, pray, do we use the phrase "finger-licking good"?

Dear Gentle Reader: Some of us do not. But you are mistaken in believing that etiquette forbids eating with the hands.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Pay attention to financial, medical and contractual issues before they escalate into something you cannot handle independently. Make changes that benefit you. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Share your emotions and plans with someone you love. How you express your desires will encourage someone to join your quest. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't share personal information, possessions or expenses. Uncertainty at home will prompt you to rethink your plans. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Observe more and say less. If you share your feelings prematurely, you will face opposition. Take the time to iron out any obstacles that leave you open to criticism. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't trust anyone to handle your affairs. Someone will take advantage of you financially by playing with your emotions. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Home improvements, buying and selling, and investments look promising if you handle matters yourself. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Scrutinize partnerships. Consider who is trying to take advantage of you. Trust will play a role in the way things turn out.

By Eugenia Last

There are circumstances in which this is permitted: Fried chicken may be correctly eaten from the hands at picnics, but not at the formal dinner table. But there are plenty of foods that can be correctly eaten with the hands under any circumstances, including bread, grapes, sandwiches, nuts and olives. As for the propriety of licking one's fingers, Miss Manners can only pity you if you believe that advertisements are a model of decent behavior.

Dear Miss Manners: At some point in my life, I came under the impression that asking questions of idle curiosity outside of a "getting to know you" setting is rude. So when my next-door neighbor is in his yard and I'm getting in my car, and he asks me where I'm off to, is he being nosy? Or am I being overly critical (in my mind only, of course, because I will always politely answer)? Is idle curiosity rude, or only in certain contexts or with certain queries?

Dear Gentle Reader: Yes, it is rude — but, as you recognize, it is not worth antagonizing a neighbor. And it is unnecessary, as there is no need to answer such questions. But Miss Manners asks you to consider the possibility that the gentleman had no real interest in whether you were going to the grocery store or the dentist, but only wanted to call out something to be friendly, and only the obvious came to mind.

Address your etiquette questions to Miss Manners at her website, www.missmanners.com; to her email, dearmissmanners@gmail.com; or through postal mail to Miss Manners, Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.