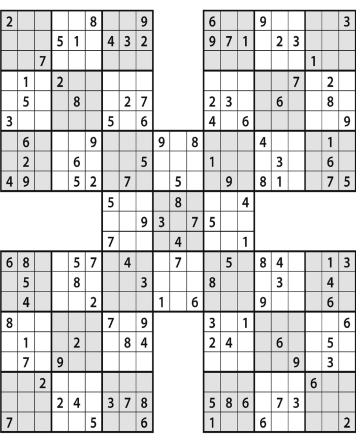
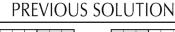
PUZZLES

SUDOKU High Fives



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.



=															_					
4	6	1	5	7	2	8	9	3				4	1	8	5	7	3	9	6	2
5	2	8	1	9	3	7	4	6				6	7	9	1	4	2	8	3	5
9	7	3	8	4	6	5	1	2				5	3	2	8	6	9	1	7	4
6	5	7	9	3	1	4	2	8				8	4	1	2	5	7	6	9	3
1	4	2	6	8	7	3	5	9				2	9	3	6	8	4	5	1	7
8	3	9	4	2	5	6	7	1				7	6	5	3	9	1	2	4	8
3	8	4	7	1	9	2	6	5	4	3	1	9	8	7	4	1	5	3	2	6
7	1	5	2	6	8	9	3	4	7	8	5	1	2	6	7	3	8	4	5	9
2	9	6	3	5	4	1	8	7	2	6	9	3	5	4	9	2	6	7	8	1
						7	4	1	3	5	8	6	9	2	П					
						3	5	6	9	4	2	8	7	1						
							9	2	1	7	6	4	3	5						
1	8	4	6	7	9	5	2	3	6	9	4	7	1	8	3	2	9	6	4	5
9	3	5	4	1	2	6	7	8	5	1	3	2	4	9	8	5	6	7	1	3
2	7	6	3	5	8	4	1	9	8	2	7	5	6	3	4	7	1	9	8	2
5	4	9	7	8	6	1	3	2				6	9	4	5	3	7	8	2	1
7	6	1	2	9	3	8	5	4				1	7	5	6	8	2	4	3	9
8	2	3	1	4	5	9	6	7				8	3	2	9	1	4	5	6	7
6	1	2	9	3	4	7	8	5				3	5	6	1	9	8	2	7	4
3	9	8	5	6	7	2	4	1				9	8	7	2	4	3	1	5	6
4	5	7	8	2	1	3	9	6				4	2	1	7	6	5	3	9	8

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ACROSS

Venomous snake

"To be honest

"My goodness!"

Like the water in a

whistling teakettle

A student may pass it

Puzzled remark

Kid's refrigerator

Law partners

How-to manual

learning

Richard of "Chicago"

place of the Cyclopes

in Greek myth

Having a very high

body mass index

Problems with

Noticeably amazed

Train ticket info, for

Writing partners

Spaceman Spiff and

Stupendous Man, for

Calvin in "Calvin and

Who "can get in the

way of what I feel for

Alicia Keys hit

Business suits?

Famous bed-ir

Nest noise

For example

delicacies

method

Salmon and sturgeon

Partners in crime

Modern meeting

Some U.S. space

you," in a 2007 No. 1

short

Hobbes'

Red

Leigh who played Scarlett

streaming Puller of strings? Silent partners

Singer with the 2020

album "A Holly Dolly

, work-

Booty call?

component

30 Mount

43

45

48

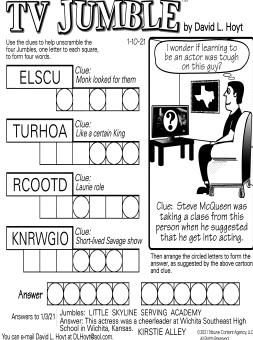
55

64

display

once grew up to 12 feet

WORKSPACE: 24× 2÷ CHALLENGING **RULES** utlined boxes, called cages, must ombine using the given operation in any order) to produce the target umbers in the top-left corners. 1 Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner. 2 The numbers within the heavily 3 6 2 1 5 7 1 2 6 4 1 7 L Þ 9 1 4 5 3 1 3 2 6 2 1 7 ε Þ L



No. 0103

7 3 2 6 2

ε Þ

How to get an old Mercedes home from Minnesota

Dear Car Talk: On a recent business trip to Minnesota, I succumbed to a local Craigslist posting for a 1988 Mercedes 560 SL convertible. Rust-free and smooth-shifting, it was more than your brother ever asked for in a car. I bought the car, parked it in a friend's barn and flew home to Oregon until I can return to make the road trip.

I know the timing chain and slide rails were recently replaced, and the brakes were serviced with new pads and rotors not 10,000 miles ago. The battery is new, the tires are good and the transmission fluid and coolant have been flushed at an appropriate interval.

I am not a mechanic. What preparations should I take to ensure strife-free travel to the West Coast so I don't end up as bison food while passing through Yellowstone?

This is what I have on my checklist so far: screwdrivers and crescent wrenches, multitool with assorted torques and other bits, flashlight, small battery jump pack, mini air compressor, assorted fuses, rags, spare set of belts, two quarts of oil, a spare oil filter, a gallon of water, AAA membership with 200-mile tow, and a cellphone with the Greyhound bus reservation line on speed dial.

What else should I consider when taking a road trip with this 32-year-old car? I'll send you a postcard from wherever I break down. — Richard

Well, Richard, there's really no way to fully prepare for an adventure like this. You've covered yourself for 15 or 20 things that can go wrong. But there are thousands of things that can go wrong. And it's simply impossible to anticipate them all.

So you have to make a choice. Either you want the adventure of making this trip, with all the thrills and potential tragedies and stories to tell that come along with it. Or you really just want to get the car home, in which case you can pay a car carrier \$1,200 to trailer the car home for you

If you really want the adventure, then accept that it's largely unpredictable. Plot out any Mercedes dealerships between Minnesota and Oregon on a map and plan a route that takes you right by every one of them. Finding someone who can work on this car and getting parts may be your biggest challenges if you have an unusual problem.



BY RAY MAGLIOZZI

Dear Car Talk: I have a 2004 Nissan XTerra with a standard transmission. There is a pretty substantial leak that is dark in color. It looks like oil, but my oil level isn't dropping.

The leak is under the engine on the passenger side. Since the oil level isn't dropping, what could it be? My power steering level is fine. Thanks. — Jeff

Most likely, the leak is coming from your front differential. Differentials allow the left and right wheels to rotate at different speeds, which they have to do when you're turning, or you'l drag your outside wheel all the way through the turn. You have two differentials on this XTerra,

because it has four-wheel drive;

one on the front axle and one in

the rear. And guess where the

front differential sits? Under the engine, just to the passenger side of the oil pan. Bingo! Unfortunately, it's hard to check the oil level in the differential, because it doesn't have a dipstick. We check it by removing the plug on the outside of the housing, sticking a finger in there (the original dipstick!) and seeing if our finger comes out with oil on it. My guess is yours won't, Jeff. So you'll save a little money on soap, and you

can put that toward your new

differential. Actually, you might be OK. It depends on how low the oil leve has gotten and how long you've been driving it this way. If you already hear a howling sound when you drive — if you keep looking in the rearview mirror, wondering why the state police are after you - then the differential is shot, and you'll have to replace it. But if it's not making noise yet, you can have your mechanic find the leak and fix it It's most likely leaking from the pinion seal, which is right next to the oil pan. Although it could be one of the axle seals, too. Replacing the seals is actually a relatively easy job. It doesn't require removing the differen-

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.

tial, and it'll probably cost you in

the neighborhood of \$250.

YORK TIMES SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PARTNERSHIPS

By Daniel Grinberg / Edited by Will Shortz

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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Take good care of your financial wellbeing. Refuse to let anyone handle your affairs for you. Past acquaintances will surface and try to lead you astray. Do for yourself, and you will come out on top. ARIES (March 21-April 19): Gather

information that helps you head in an exciting direction. What you discover will lead to an opportunity. TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be

careful what you say and do. Consider the consequences involved in making a snap decision before you get all the details of a proposition someone makes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Expand your mind. Search for opportunities that will allow you to use your skills, knowledge and experience. Look at the fine print.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make personal progress, health and fitness priorities. Refuse to let emotional situations take over and ruin your day.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Avoid interacting with people who don't share your beliefs or opinions. You're better off not getting into a futile argument. Concentrate on saving, not spending.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep an open mind, but don't trust someone to tell you the whole truth. Put more thought into making lifestyle adjustments that encourage fitness and good health.

changes at home. Move things around or make plans to spend time with someone who brings out the best in you. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make

Choose your words wisely. An unexpected change will leave you in a precarious position. Someone will judge you for the way you handle situations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Personal and physical improvements are favored. Make an effort to get in shape,

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): anyone. Using the element of surprise will

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Think before you act. Don't jeopardize your position, status or reputation to appease

emotions can lead to poor judgment and regret. Listen to what others have to say,

MISS MANNERS

Dear Miss Manners: I have a friend. Now they are not speaking.

the virus. She has for the most part stayed home, having groceries delivered and keeping up friendships via technology.

a bit more "out there." I go shopping, to the salon and out to restaurants. I wear a mask and social distance. Maya has "tsk, tsked" me this whole time and said some insulting

Well, guess who got the virus? She did! I have remained healthy and active and have tested negative several times. Luckily. Maya was able to recover

without hospitalization. I feel she owes acknowledgment that her "I'm better than you" attitude was wrong. Should I open a Dear Gentle Reader: We try not to pick

on sick people. Yes, Miss Manners knows that Maya was picking on you, but as you object to that, you should not be returning it in kind. Besides, what is your point? That

does not mean that one should not take If it is any comfort to you, not saying

it. She will hear her own words better if you

miss his old friend's online birthday party because he had to work. He did call and

wish him a happy birthday first thing in the morning, and he called his buddy again as soon as he got home from work. Obviously, that was not good enough.

improve your diet and look your best. Don't share your intentions or plans with

make whatever you plan to pursue better.

someone. Focus on health and fitness. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Mixed

We know that his wife does not like my

Should he "apologize," or should he just

Dear Gentle Reader: The friendship has

It doesn't matter whether the wife was

involved. The lack of respect for your hus-

band's legitimate scheduling conflict, and

for his finding other ways to recognize the

birthday, is so outrageous that it suggests

the old friend was looking for an excuse to

Yes, an apology should be given, but by

Dear Miss Manners: I work as a house-

cleaner, and received gifts from my clients

this past Christmas as tips or thank-yous

for the work I did for them throughout the

thank-you gifts? I don't want them to think

I am not grateful, but I feel as if I am thank-

Dear Gentle Reader: You would not be

year. Do I write thank-you notes for the

break things off. And found a particularly

husband, and previously caused a lot of

trouble and heartache for him. I suspect

let this 68-year-old friendship go by the

that she is behind this.

gone by the wayside.

unpleasant one.

the birthday celebrant.

ing them for a thank-you.

but don't let gullibility take over.

By Eugenia Last

By Judith Martin, Nicholas Ivor Martin and Jacobina Martin

'Maya," who has been very cautious about

I respect her choices, but I've been quite things about my intelligence.

me some sort of apology, or at least an conversation or just let it go?

the virus can strike despite precautions

precautions 'nyah-nyah" is more effective than saying

Dear Miss Manners: My husband had to

Address your etiquette questions to Miss Manners at her website, www.missmanners com: to her email, dearmiss manners@gmail Kansas City, MO 64106.

thanking them for having thanked you. You would be thanking them for having given you those presents. Miss Manners urges you to do so.

com; or through postal mail to Miss Manners Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St.,