

Writing thank-you notes gets easier using the right advice

DEAR ABBY: The issue of thank-you notes comes up often in your column. May I share how I learned to write them? When I was young, my mother asked me one day why I was so resistant. I said I hated addressing them and I never knew what to say! It was overwhelming to me.

Mother taught me some phrases such as, “I appreciate your thoughtfulness,” and ways to close like, “I hope to see you again soon.” She gently reminded me that the sooner I wrote, the easier it would be to express words of gratitude. She also made a deal with me: If I quit complaining and procrastinating, she’d address them for me until I turned 18.

When I turned 18 she gave me an address book filled with the addresses of our family and friends, beautiful new stationery and a book of stamps. In case you’re curious, my 18th birthday gifts were all acknowledged with thank-you notes addressed by me! I’m 22 now, and I have never missed a note. — **SARAH B., ANSONIA, CONN.**

DEAR SARAH B.: Thank you for your charming letter. Your mother was not only a good negotiator, she also taught you a skill that will be valuable as you grow older. I print letters about this



DEAR ABBY

subject so often because of the number of complaints I receive about the failure to receive a thank-you note. When a gift (or check) isn’t acknowledged, the message it sends is that the item wasn’t appreciated, which is insulting and hurtful.

Chief among the reasons people don’t send thank-you notes is that they don’t know what to say and are afraid they’ll say the wrong thing. That’s why my booklet, “How to Write Letters,” was written. It contains samples of thank-you letters for birthday gifts, shower gifts and wedding gifts, as well as those that arrive around holiday time. It also includes letters of congratulations and ones regarding difficult topics -- including letters of condolence for the loss of a parent, spouse or a child. It can be ordered by sending name, mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds), to Dear Abby Letters Booklet,

P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.) Use it to tailor your own messages. With the holiday season approaching and people sending gifts and greetings through the end of the year, this is the perfect time to reply with a handwritten letter, note or well-written email.

Because composition of letters and notes is not always effectively taught in the schools, my booklet can provide a helpful tutorial, and is particularly valuable for parents as a way to teach their children how to write using proper etiquette.

DEAR ABBY: My question is very simple, Abby. Who determines right or wrong in your life, your opinions, your column? This will tell me all I need to know about your wisdom or advice. — **RON IN MICHIGAN**

DEAR RON: Actually, I think your question is anything but “simple,” and the answer is: I DO.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

su | do | ku

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

Instructions for play: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

That’s all there is to it. There’s no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. It’s fun. It’s challenging. It’s addictive!

Solving time is typically from 10 to 30 minutes, depending on your skill and experience. The solution for today’s puzzle will be published in Saturday’s paper. Or you can go to www.sudoku.com to find the solution.

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

HELOISE’S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

Crushing Rocks Into Onion Powder

Dear Heloise: I buy the large ONION-POWDER SPICE for quick recipes. Over time, however, the onion powder clumps together into rocklike balls and won’t flow out of the container. I can’t afford to throw away the “rocks,” so how do I get them back to powder form? — D.G., Metairie, La.

The only hint is to crush them! Use a large spoon or even a serving fork to break up the lumps. The quality of the spice may not be exactly the same as when it was new. Moisture got into the container, causing the clumps. To prevent this, don’t sprinkle over a steaming pot of soup or use a damp utensil to dip into the container. — Heloise

Diced Tomatoes

Dear Heloise: I keep a can or two of diced tomatoes on hand. When I want to prepare a salad but have no fresh tomatoes, I open a can of diced tomatoes. I drain off all the liquid and mix the tomatoes with my leafy salad items. It brightens up the dish and adds a zesty flavor. — Joe C., Clemson, S.C.

Hey, Joe, have you been looking in my pantry? I do the very same, and it’s a quick fix when there are no fresh tomatoes in the basket. Tasty, too! There are certain staples that need to be in the pantry, and diced tomatoes are one of them! Added to soups, salads and pasta and casserole dishes, they come in handy on many nights! With cooler nights on the way, my Heloise’s Spectacular Soups pamphlet can give you some great ideas for dinner! To order one, please send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (70 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Soups, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Keep rice, noodles, barley and macaroni in the pantry to add to broths for a hearty meal! — Heloise

Identifying Eggs

Dear Heloise: You mentioned coloring the water when hard-boiling eggs to identify them. I’ve always marked the shells with an “H” (for hard-boiled) in pencil before I refrigerate them.

We all burst out laughing when my visiting great-granddaughter opened the refrigerator door, turned to us with a puzzled expression and said, “Somebody’s been writing on the eggs!” I think of her every time I make a batch now! — John in Florida

Cardboard Pizza Holders

Dear Readers: What to do with the circular cardboard that the frozen pizza comes on? Don’t toss it -- make it into something else. Cover with aluminum foil and use to put cookies, pastry or a cake on when taking the goodies to a potluck, etc. Nothing to worry about returning. — Heloise

Apple Peels

Dear Heloise: When my significant other makes an apple pie, she saves the peelings for me. They are great snack items, even hours later and if some are a little brown. I can eat several apples’ worth and feel moderately full. And it is the healthiest part of the apple! — Tom S., Colorado Springs, Colo.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Easy runs
6 Washed out

DOWN

1 Poet
2 Dylan

2 Twin

raised by a wolf

3 “— to

Live”

4 Muscle

quality

5 Fourth-yr.

students

6 Diner

desserts

7 Regions

8 Narrow shelf

9 English

county

11 Tax

deduction

28 Black suit

41 Hula

swayers

42 Flexes

17 By eye

20 Cavalry

sites:

21 Go

downhill

24 Took, as

advice

25 Like some

bonuses

27 Take

wing

38 Truck

part

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1 AND 2! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10					11			
12						13		
14					15			
16					17			18
19			20			21		
22					23		24	25
26					27			28
29	30	31		32			33	
34			35			36		
37						38		
39						40		
41						42		

11-12

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Hooded snake

6 Sneaker

feature

11 Parting

word

12 Blood

line

13 Fuses

perhaps

15 Much

17 Cheering cry

19 Letter

after pi

20 Drill

need

23 Mideast-

ern

25 Carnival

attraction

26 Bucks

28 Joseph Conrad’s

“— of Six”

29 Friend

of Pooh

30 Spanish

king

31 Energy

32 Bellow

33 Man with a cape

35 Dyeing

art

38 Medicine

amounts

41 Rust, for

one

42 Stroll

43 Trait

carriers

44 Eric Clap-

ton song

DOWN

1 Crow cry

2 Pindar

poem

3 “Rock

Around the Clock”

singer

4 Give a

makeover

5 Land-

locked

European

nation

6 Forbidden

co-star

7 Shingle

setting

8 Misstep

9 Put

away

10 June

honor

27 Like

humans

31 Jabs

33 Ocean

motion

34 Italia’s

capital

35 Swamp

36 Log

chopper

37 Malleable

metal

39 Angled

pipe

40 Vast

expanse

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12				
13					14				
15					16				
17	18			19			20	21	22
23			24			25			
26						27			
28						29			
30				31			32		
33						34			
35	36	37				38		39	40
41						42			
43						44			

11-13

Daily Cryptoquote – Here’s how to work it:

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L’s, X for the two O’s, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-12

CRYPTOQUOTE

K I V I U X I P V S P I P H ’ D I U P
U T W S D Y H K K H X K Q T P K I V I
X S V Q K S P D I G H I P H H C D H ’ D .
— Z W I B I X B I D K I W H F D J W

Previous Cryptoquote: A WOMAN’S MIND IS CLEANER THAN A MAN’S. SHE CHANGES IT MORE OFTEN. – Oliver Herford

COMICS

Tundra

