Senior project investigates what makes people happy

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I am a senior in high school. As part of the English program, each senior must assemble a senior project. For mine, I decided to research happiness. I have researched what makes Americans happy and the brain process that takes place when people feel joy.

As someone who reads questions all day about people's problems, I would like to know what makes you happy. Do you have any hobbies or favorite pastimes? Do you have a favorite place to go to cheer you up? What do you think about in order to cheer yourself up?

Thank you for your time and consideration. I can't wait to hear back from you. — **HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR IN MONTANA**

DEAR SENIOR: Although I read about problems every day, they don't drag me down. They make me want to take action. What makes me happy is knowing I can make a positive difference in the lives of the individuals who write to me. While I enjoy an occasional concert, play or film – and getting together with friends – much of my happiness is derived from my work.

When I need a lift, I think about the blessings I have – a loving husband, that we're both healthy, that we have friends to laugh with, that I have the ability to exercise, enjoy my favorite flower and the warmth of walking in the sunshine. And I remember to be grateful for all of them.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 14-year-old girl, and I have had a great relationship with my parents since I was a baby. I have always felt I have the perfect family. I can talk to them about anything and love spending time with them.

Lately, though, I have begun fighting with my dad almost every day. They're never big or scary fights, just arguments that leave us both angry and disgruntled. He says I have a newly developed "attitude." I say he has a bit of a temper. Neither of us is willing to back down.

We have talked about our constant arguing, but we honestly don't know how to fix it. He recently suggested family counseling, but I'm not sure if it has gone that far yet. Any advice? — **TEEN IN FAIRBANKS, ALASKA**

DEAR TEEN: Some of what is happening between you and your dad may be that you are now a teenager, with all of the hormonal changes that go with it. That said, you are old enough to understand that because there can be consequences for saying the first thing that pops into our heads, it is prudent to exercise tact.

I consider your father's idea of family counseling now to be a good one. Think of it as "preventive medicine" to avoid a more serious breakdown in communications later.

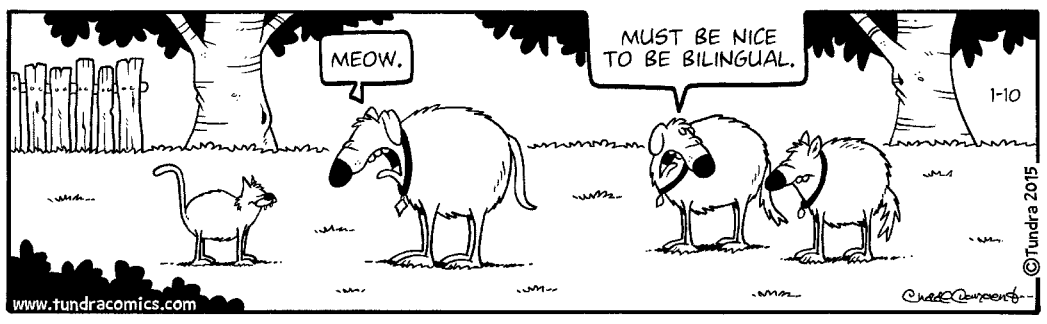
DEAR ABBY: Is it OK to put a paper towel holder in the bathroom? I don't want to buy the kind that you can pull out from a box. I want to put a holder on the wall so I don't have to hide my roll under the sink. That way, anyone can pull a sheet off the roll to clean up a mess or wipe their hands if they don't want to use a hand towel. I've never seen one in anyone's bathroom, but I don't know why. — **JANET IN NEW JERSEY**

DEAR JANET: Even though you haven't seen one, I'm sure you're not the only one to think of it. If you would like a roll of paper towels in your bathroom, you'll get no argument from me. Go for it.

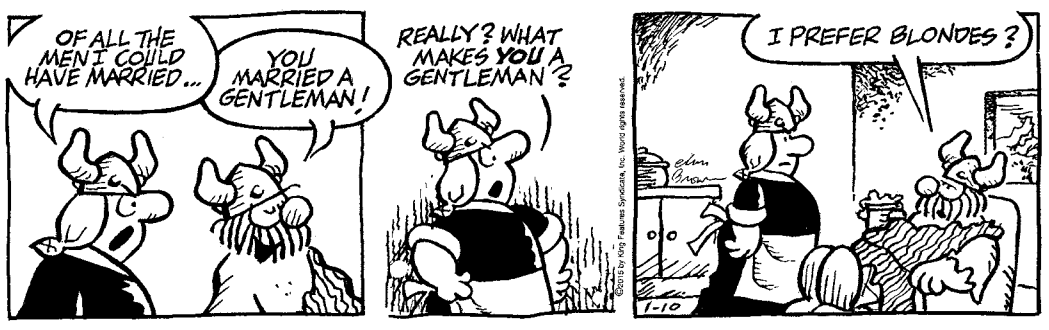
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

COMICS

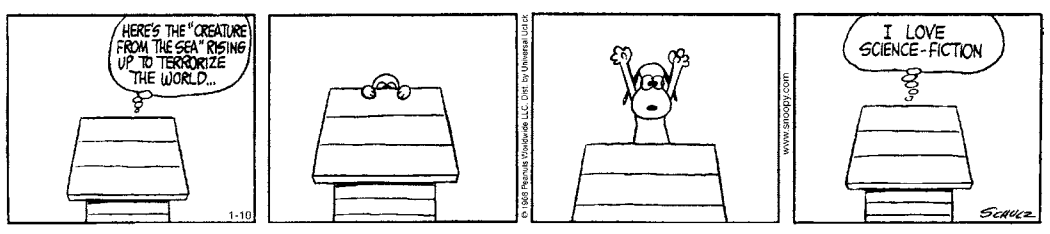
Tundra



Hagar the Horrible

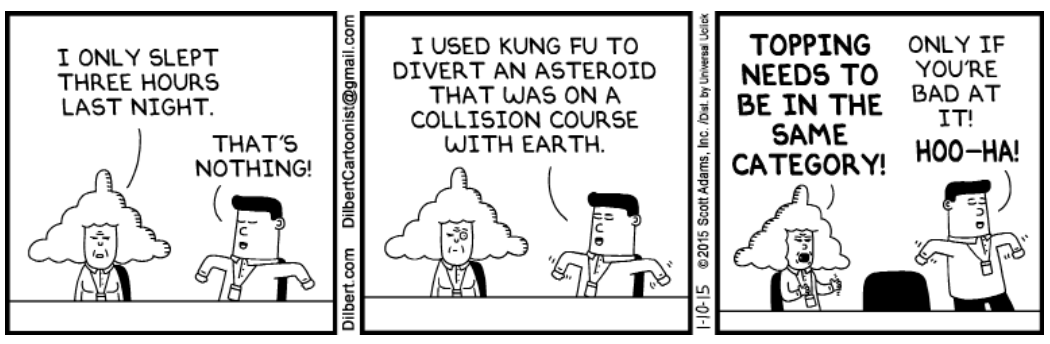


Peanuts



Baby Blues

Dilbert



su|do|ku

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

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Unexpected news excites you, Aries. Even though you're not yet sure if the news is good or bad, you have high hopes that positive information is on the way.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, you have an abundance of energy and you have to find a way to harness it for the greater good. Find a new hobby or volunteer for a local project.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
Now is not a good time to make significant financial decisions, Gemini. You have to make changes when the time is right, and you will know when that day arrives.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, your mood is uplifting to those around you. Maintain this optimistic outlook in the weeks ahead, and good fortune is bound to come your way.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, don't be afraid to accept a helping hand at work. Seek help from others if no offers are immediately forthcoming. Explore all of your networking possibilities.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Keep an extra-sharp mind this week, Virgo, as there isn't anything you cannot accomplish if you put your mind to it. Try tackling those big projects that you have been avoiding.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, a problem with no obvious solution has you seeing both sides of the argument. Dwell on things for a little while longer, and the solution will eventually come to you.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you are planning some big moves and you are bound to have a number of supporters behind you. Others want you to succeed so take an opportunity and run with it.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Take extra care with projects at work, Sagittarius. A difficult problem may arise, and a careful approach to the tasks at hand can help you nip that problem in the bud.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you will forge a new relationship this week, and it may lead to a solid friendship that lasts a number of years. Feelings are bound to get more intense.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
This is a great week for brainstorming, Aquarius. Once you have a few solid ideas, put your plans into motion. At least one should pan out quite well.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
Someone is trying to steer you in one direction, Pisces. Politely decline if that direction is the opposite of what you want to do.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 11
Amanda Peet, Actress (43)

JANUARY 12
Rob Zombie, Singer (50)

JANUARY 13
Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Actress (54)

JANUARY 14
Jason Bateman, Actor (46)

JANUARY 15
Pitbull, Rapper (35)

JANUARY 16
Kate Moss, Model (41)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

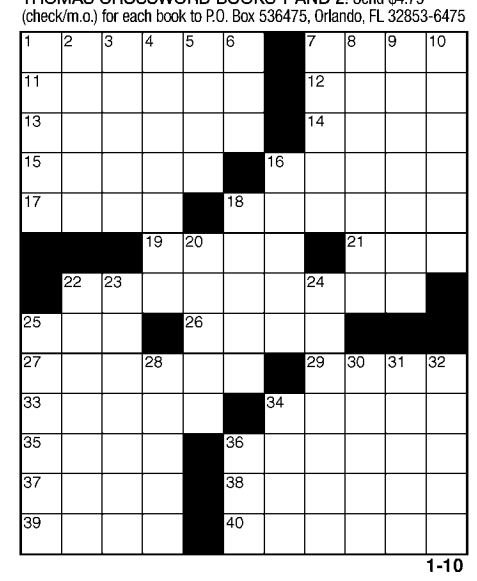
ACROSS
1 Speculative question
7 Dress
11 "Satires" poet
12 Words of understanding
13 Roused
14 Brewery sights
15 Gets up
16 Deserve
17 Yard divisions
18 Prof protector
19 Continually
21 Went ahead
22 It has a cover above the covers
25 Crone
26 Mosaic piece
27 Bore
29 Luke's teacher
33 Airport areas
34 Bar mixer
35 Small mass
36 Suggest
37 Jared of "Dallas Buyers Club"
38 Mysterious
39 Harrow rival
40 Oozed

DOWN
1 Docking spot
2 Football's Long
3 "— by any other name ..."
4 Break
5 Frozen desserts
6 Swamp
7 Specified
8 Generally
9 No longer working
10 Outwitted
16 Streep of "Into the Woods"
18 Lukewarm
20 Campaign goal
22 Nightclub
23 Restlessly, in music
24 "Crazy in Love" singer
25 Negotiate a price
28 Evil spirit
30 Available
31 TV's Sawyer
32 Took steps
34 Fatigue
36 Holds

T	I	M	I	D	■	■	F	I	S	T	
A	B	A	S	E	■	P	A	S	T	A	
C	E	D	E	S	■	E	S	S	E	X	
T	R	E	E	■	M	A	T	U	R	E	
I	I	I	■	T	A	R	■	E	N	D	
C	A	R	A	V	E	L	S	■	■	■	
■	N	A	R	C	■	J	U	G	S	■	
■	■	■	C	A	R	A	M	E	L	S	
V	A	L	■	M	O	M	■	L	I	P	
E	R	O	D	E	D	■	N	A	D	A	
N	O	S	I	R	■	G	O	T	I	N	
O	M	E	G	A	■	I	N	I	N	K	
M	A	R	S	■	■	G	O	N	G	S	

Previous Puzzle

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



1-10

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Forest growth
5 Finals, for example
10 Fresh
11 Newscast part
13 Jazz talk
14 Holed up
15 Of the deep
17 Keats poem
18 Lease signers
19 Diner dessert
20 Boater or bowler
21 Shoe part
22 "Skedaddle!"
25 Grazing groups
26 Zesty flavor
27 Feeling down
28 Mine rock
29 Cincinnati team
33 Kanye's music
34 Perfectly behaved
35 Contacts by computer
37 Walk in the woods
38 Grad's reward
39 Roasting spot
40 Is ahead
41 Heredity unit

DOWN
1 Significant
2 Chilled
3 Common dice roll
4 One of Kotter's class
5 Casual top
6 Long stories
7 Lawn makeup
8 Highway cop
9 Prepared for finals
12 Fills with resolution
16 Orderly
21 Spiny mammal
22 Laid away
23 Chewy candy
24 Like most résumés
25 Put on the wall
27 Detects
29 Made hay
30 Full of energy
31 Compare
32 Play part
36 George Gershwin's brother

B	A	T	H	S	■	C	A	R	E	S	
A	D	H	O	C	■	A	C	U	T	E	
T	O	R	S	O	■	T	R	E	A	T	
■	■	E	S	T	A	T	E	■	■	■	
P	O	E	■	T	R	Y	■	T	A	P	
A	C	I	D	I	C	■	O	H	N	O	
T	H	R	E	E	H	E	A	R	T	S	
C	R	O	W	■	E	G	R	E	S	S	
H	E	N	■	P	R	O	■	E	Y	E	
■	■	■	D	U	S	T	U	P	■	■	
C	A	B	I	N	■	I	N	A	P	T	
A	G	E	N	T	■	S	T	R	A	W	
B	O	N	E	S	■	M	O	T	T	O	

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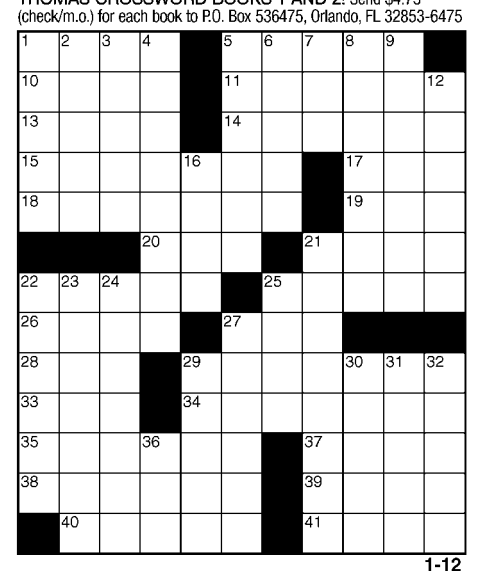

1-12

Daily Cryptoquote – Here's how to work it:

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

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.

1-10 CRYPTOQUOTE

ODVCV'P OXM OFNVP ME SVTC EMC NV: EMMORTKK PVTPMH, THA XTFOFHI EMC EMMORTKK PVTPMH. — ATCFJP CJZUVC

Previous Cryptoquote: DON'T TAKE THE BULL BY THE HORNS, TAKE HIM BY THE TAIL; THEN YOU CAN LET GO WHEN YOU WANT TO. – Josh Billings