

# Dating and peer pressure collide with teen’s morals

**DEAR ABBY:** I’m 13, and my classmates are just beginning to “date.” Sometimes what this means is, “Hey, do you want to go to my house, get drunk and have sex?” There’s already a pregnant girl in our school. She’s 12.

I’m trying not to get involved in any of this, but I’m constantly being teased for not holding a guy’s hand, let alone not having had my first kiss. I have learned to deal with it, but my problem is there’s this one guy who has been flirting with me.

“Jon” is sweet and nice, but he’s part of the popular crowd. I’m afraid if he asks me out, he’ll end up trying to get me drunk. He’s different from the people he hangs out with, but I still don’t know if I can trust him.

I want to stay a virgin until I get married. I won’t drink until I’m 21, and I never intend to use drugs. But how do I say no if Jon asks me out and tries to have sex with me or gets me buzzed? I can’t hide my entire junior high-to-high school life and not accept a date. Can you help? — **TOO YOUNG FOR TROUBLE, COLUMBIA, MO.**

**DEAR TOO YOUNG:** There’s an old saying, “Birds of a feather flock together,” and it’s usually true. If the price of being popular at your school is being pregnant at 12, then accept that you are better off NOT running with the



DEAR ABBY

popular crowd, even if Jon is “nice.”

Not all the students in your class are into sex and drinking. It’s up to you to avoid the ones who are and socialize with the ones whose values are like yours. If you do, you will never have to worry about someone getting you “buzzed” and taking advantage of you.

Before you go anywhere with anyone, your parents should have met the person. There should be a clear understanding about where you’ll be, what time you’ll be home and which adult will be supervising.

Equally important: If you ever find yourself in a situation in which you are not comfortable, call your parents immediately so they can pick you up. Got it? You don’t have to be a prude, but you do have to set boundaries, and your parents can and should help you to do that.

**DEAR ABBY:** I’m in an awkward position. I started working for my uncle’s

plumbing business four months ago. I’m a laborer, not an apprentice or mechanic, so I don’t know a lot about the trade. I’m not qualified to do a lot of the basic tasks like welding or pipe fitting, but I work hard. I come in early and stay late. I’m respectful and try to have a positive attitude.

The problem is most of the guys here regard me as the arrogant, spoiled nephew (which I’m not). They think I’m incapable and only got the job through my family ties.

How do I prove myself to them? I want to earn their respect. If I ask my uncle to talk to them, they won’t trust me and it will make me look bad. Help me, please. — **UNDERESTIMATED IN VIRGINIA**

**DEAR UNDERESTIMATED:** I know it’s difficult, but if you want to earn their respect, keep doing exactly what you are doing. Come in early, stay late and learn all you can about the business. In time, your efforts will be recognized. What you are experiencing is something that happens to anyone who enters a family business.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## su | do | ku

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

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](http://www.sudoku.com) to find the solution.

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

## HOROSCOPES

### ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you have a great deal of energy but have no idea where to focus all of it. This could be a good week to visit with friends and family and spend time together.

### TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Don’t get swept away by old habits, Taurus. It is time to try something new and get a new perspective. Accept a new challenge and you will be glad for having done so.

### GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, you may be tempted to question the actions of others this week. But try to focus instead on what you are doing and do not be concerned with the motivations of other people.

### CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you have to go to great lengths to get your point across this week. Approach such situations with tact and patience and do your best to simplify your point of view.

### LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, all you need is a little spark to motivate you this week. You may be able to tackle projects around the house or assignments at work with ease and a little inspiration.

### VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, your romantic life is full of complicated patterns and obstacles, which could be taking their toll on your relationship. Some subtle changes might get things back on track.

### LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Unfortunately, sitting back and doing nothing this week will move you nowhere fast, Libra. The vacation is over; you need to find the motivation to increase the pace.

### SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Things move along quite smoothly for you this week, Scorpio. There are plenty of distractions heading your way, but do your best to stay focused.

### SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Get outdoors and enjoy some fresh air, Sagittarius. Fresh air is just what you need after a bout of cabin fever. The weather is breaking and outside projects beckon.

### CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, start planning a much-needed vacation for you and your significant other. Some time away from the hustle and bustle is just what the both of you need.

### AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Trust your instincts, Aquarius. When something seems off-kilter, you owe it to yourself to trust your gut and speak up, even if others aren’t ready to believe you.

### PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Express your passion for a special project to a loved one, Pisces. Don’t be afraid to share your feelings with those closest to you.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 30  
Celine Dion, Singer (46)

MARCH 31  
Ewan McGregor, Actor (43)

APRIL 1  
Rachel Maddow, TV Host (41)

APRIL 2  
Michael Fassbender, Actor (37)

APRIL 3  
Cobie Smulders, Actress (32)

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

1 Play

5 Pear-

shaped

instru-

ment

9 More

sage

10 Make

better

12 Foreword

13 Left over

14 Scent

16 Gift

topper

17 Punk rock

offshoot

18 Sheet

material

20 Sounded

hoarse

22 Hideous

23 Verdi

pieces

25 Egg

outline

28 Region of

eastern

France

32 Arrange

in every

possible

way

34 Crew

director

35 Compass

trace

36 Lie in

court

38 Yoga

position

40 Circus

star

41 Shore

bird

### 42 Three-

time Wim-

bledon

champ

43 Bank

statement

no.

44 Martial

arts levels

### DOWN

1 Movies

2 Houston

team

3 Lowly

worker

4 Good

sport

5 Powerful

beam

6 Diamond

judge

7 Brewing

item

8 Sign up

9 Wind-

shield

clearer

11 Loser to

Truman

15 Oversee

negotia-

tions

19 Swear

21 Tropical

tree

24 Warned

25 Milky

stones

A	T	O	L	L	S		I	F	F	Y
R	A	N	O	U	T		S	O	L	E
F	R	A	N	C	E		L	O	U	T
			G	Y	M	R	A	T		
B	I	B	S		I	N	B	E	D	
A	D	O		P	A	N	D	O	R	A
T	E	A		A	R	K		A	R	M
H	A	R	P	I	E	S		R	E	P
E	L	D	E	R			O	D	D	S
			F	O	S	S	I	L		
S	T	O	P		A	S	I	D	E	S
P	O	O	L		S	E	V	E	R	E
A	N	T	E		S	E	E	S	A	W

Previous Puzzle

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, 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
32							33			34
35							36			37
38							39			40
41										42
							43			44

3-29

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

1 Cheering

word

6 Wild

guess

10 Air traffic

aid

11 Buttes’

cousins

13 Musical

set in

Argentina

14 Caper

15 Tiny

16 Broncos’

org.

18 Pub

beverage

19 Meat

stew

22 Longing

23 In —

(stuck)

24 Sings like

Ella

27 Aids in

crime

28 Swanky

29 Bullring

cheer

30 Mischie-

vous

person

35 — de

France

36 Many a

time

37 Ab —

(from the

beginning)

38 Marilyn’s

real name

40 Despises

### 42 Main ideas

43 Knowing

44 Easter

lead-in

45 Exams

### DOWN

1 Makes

coffee

2 “Bolero”

composer

3 Parting

word

4 Big tub

5 Grove

harvest

6 Miniature

gods

7 Wallet bill

8 “Top Hat”

star

9 Govern-

ment

rescue

26 Malign

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