

# Daughter’s baby-sitting leads to another baby

**DEAR ABBY:** My 16-year-old daughter, “Sierra,” started baby-sitting in the afternoons for a couple when she was 15. Sometimes her dad or I would drop her off; sometimes the husband, “Karl,” would before he left for work. My husband and Karl became friends, and when Karl and his wife split up, we let him stay on our couch for a few months.



DEAR ABBY

Then we found out Sierra was pregnant and that she and Karl had been sleeping together before he split with his wife. My daughter is upset that we want to involve the police and press charges because she was underage. How can I get Sierra to stop hating me and understand that this relationship isn’t healthy? — **“THE ENEMY MOM” IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

**DEAR “ENEMY MOM”:** Sierra is mad at you because you are injecting an unwelcome note of reality into her fantasy of “love.” Karl is a predator who needs to be answerable for what he did. He will also have to support that child until he or she is no longer a minor. Because he has shown himself to be amoral and irresponsible, involve not only the police but also the department of social services to ensure that he lives up to all of his

responsibilities.

**DEAR ABBY:** It was brought to my attention that an employee in my workplace was asked by his supervisor if he would be OK with working with a gay male before the person was interviewed. Is this even legal? She basically “outed” the potential employee in the workplace.

If the person she asked did have a problem working with someone who’s gay, it implies the man wouldn’t have been hired, which would be discrimination, wouldn’t it? Couldn’t that lead to a possible lawsuit? Or am I wrong? — **RIGHT OR WRONG IN WISCONSIN**

**DEAR RIGHT OR WRONG:** I discussed your question with an attorney from Lambda Legal, the national organization committed to achieving full rec-

ognition of the civil rights of LGBT people. Currently, 21 states plus the District of Columbia have laws that protect gay people from employment discrimination. Wisconsin is one of them. The attorney said that “outing” the candidate to the other employee was “not necessarily illegal,” but that it was “DEFINITELY a bad business practice.”

In the 21 states that offer protection for gay people, a prospective employer cannot base a hiring decision on how comfortable someone is with the candidate’s sexual orientation, or the perception that a co-worker or customer might be uncomfortable with a gay person. That is discrimination, and it IS illegal.

**DEAR READERS:** The year is almost over – I can’t believe how fast it has gone! Please accept my heartfelt wish for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2015. And if you are partying this evening, please be safe! — **LOVE, ABBY**

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](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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.

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

## HELOISE’S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

**2015 Is Almost Here!** Dear Readers: It’s NEW YEAR’S EVE, 2014, and we are about to say “Hello” to a new year. I love the sound of “Twenty-fifteen”! If you are going out and about, please be safe, and have a wonderful time. If you’re staying home, snug as a big, warm hug, hope you have someone special to celebrate with.

Please know that as we travel through the next year, I’ll be here to help you, share your ideas and hints, and just be a friend.

If you are awake for the countdown, watch it on TV, and you can pretty much pick if you want to celebrate on Tahiti time, Texas time or Timbuktu, Mali, time. OK, folks, figure out which location celebrates first! — My very best wishes, Heloise

### Taco Casserole

Dear Heloise: Looking at your recipe for Heloise’s Taco Casserole, there was ground beef to be added. Was the ground beef to be cooked before, or would cooking it in the oven make it safe to eat? — Cynthia Holloway in Texas

Glad you asked, because the answer is yes, the ground beef needs to be cooked first. This taco casserole is a good way to “re-purpose” leftover ground beef from tacos. For other readers, here are the directions again: Grease a big casserole dish with non-stick spray, then spread some salsa (canned, jarred or left over from takeout) on the bottom. Sprinkle broken-up tortilla chips or taco shells over it, then layer the leftover ground meat. Next, beans, cheese and more salsa, and a layer of chips on top. Bake until hot, about 30 minutes at 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Take it out of the oven, let sit for about five minutes, then top with sour cream, guacamole, olives, lettuce and tomatoes. For this recipe and more, you can order my All-Time Favorite Recipes pamphlet. Please send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (70 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Recipes, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Use packaged taco-seasoning mix to flavor cooked beef if you have no taco leftovers but still want to make this casserole. — Heloise

### Chicken Skin

Dear Heloise: I buy whole chickens, cut them up and freeze them. When I cook the chicken, I remove the skin. Using a paper towel to grab the skin and then pull it off is the easiest method. — Jamie D. in Connecticut

### Hard-Boiled Eggs

Dear Heloise: When a recipe calls for chopped hard-boiled eggs, I poach them in my egg poacher. I don’t have to peel them, and I can judge when the yolks are hard. This has made my life simpler. — Patricia White, Marfa, Texas

Patricia, it’s brilliant! Also, this is perfect for egg salad. A big hug for teaching me a new hint! — Heloise

### Whisk Holder

Dear Heloise: My helpful hint is for the whisk in the kitchen. In my drawer, it got caught on everything it came in contact with. I used my zippered beer-bottle holder, and the whisk fits like a glove. — Debbie W. in Florida

## CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

- 1 Foes
- 7 Plot unit
- 11 With a low pH
- 12 Eschew
- 13 Biology categories
- 14 Beach stuff
- 15 French fragrance
- 17 It’s true
- 20 Drive
- 23 Cabinet wood
- 24 Bitter brew
- 26 Mex. neighbor
- 27 Holiday lead-in
- 28 Collins base
- 29 Tennis star
- 31 Silent approval
- 32 Sorts
- 33 Catches
- 34 Margin for error
- 37 Enjoy the tub
- 39 Brass and bronze
- 43 Pennsylvania port
- 44 Gems
- 45 Watch over
- 46 Upright

### DOWN

- 1 Cloth scrap
- 2 Rink surface
- 3 Coq au —
- 4 Skilled
- 5 Old Italian coin
- 6 Surgery memento
- 7 Take for granted
- 8 December 31 drink
- 9 Baseball score
- 10 Purpose
- 16 Does clerical work
- 17 He made a deal with the devil

- 18 Test for purity
- 19 New England lake
- 21 Poet T.S.
- 22 Gives for a time
- 24 In itself
- 25 Gardner of movies
- 30 Cheated at hide-and-seek
- 33 Backpack material
- 35 Laundry
- 36 Choir voice
- 37 Clique
- 38 Vein contents
- 40 Small bill
- 41 “You betcha!”
- 42 Retired plane

I	S	T	S		S	L	E	D	S
M	A	R	I	A		M	O	D	E
O	V	E	R	T		U	T	I	C
F	E	B		E	G	G		T	E
F	R	E	S	C	O		F	O	N
S	K	I	R	E	S	O	R	T	
S	N	O	W		M	A	K	E	R
S	H	E	S		A	S	S	A	I
H	O	G		I	D	A		S	P
A	W	A	R	D		L	A	T	E
V	I	T	A	L		T	H	E	S
E	N	E	M	Y		A	R	T	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	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
43						44			
45						46			

12-31

## CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

- 1 Lion sound
- 5 Free throw sound
- 10 Land in the sea
- 12 Aunt, in Arles
- 13 Soothing lotion
- 14 Crowd scene
- 15 Sense of self
- 16 Annual celebration
- 18 “Cool Hand Luke” star
- 20 “Scram!”
- 21 “No ifs, —, or buts”
- 23 USN rank
- 24 Piece of data
- 26 Makes a mistake
- 28 Milk producer
- 29 Fiji’s capital
- 31 Tick off
- 32 Gravity studier
- 36 “Twilight” sequel
- 39 — de la Cité
- 40 Online messages
- 41 Commerce

### DOWN

- 1 Out of bed
- 2 River of Missouri
- 3 Permit
- 4 Gun, as a motor
- 5 Hearty dish
- 6 Like paraffin
- 7 Counting number
- 8 Tries hard
- 9 Trick-taking game
- 11 Lease signers
- 17 Conclusion
- 19 Bub
- 22 Inning with a stretch
- 24 Plant boss
- 25 Clumsy
- 27 Uncooked

- 28 Movies
- 30 One, for Juan
- 33 Small crown
- 34 Bygone
- 35 Impoverished
- 37 Ore source
- 38 Flamenco cries
- 42 Basketball net holder

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

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	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
36			37	38			39	
40						41	42	
43						44		
45						46		

1-1

Daily Cryptoquote – Here’s how to work it:

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

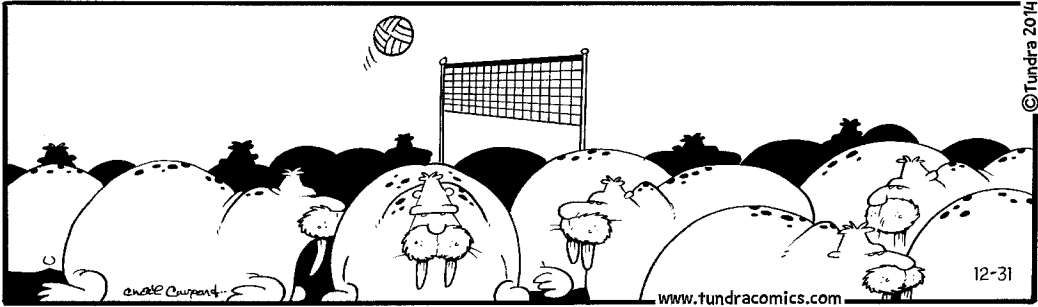
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L’s, X for the two O’s, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-31 CRYPTOQUOTE  
C E O P G W E R E X P T P S F P E N ’ R  
P L P : I D T ’ W I N G T O G X F D B E N P  
I N G L G T Y , E T I I D T ’ W I N G L P G X  
F D B ’ L P K P P T I N G T O G T Y .  
— F D B N U D T R U G P T U P

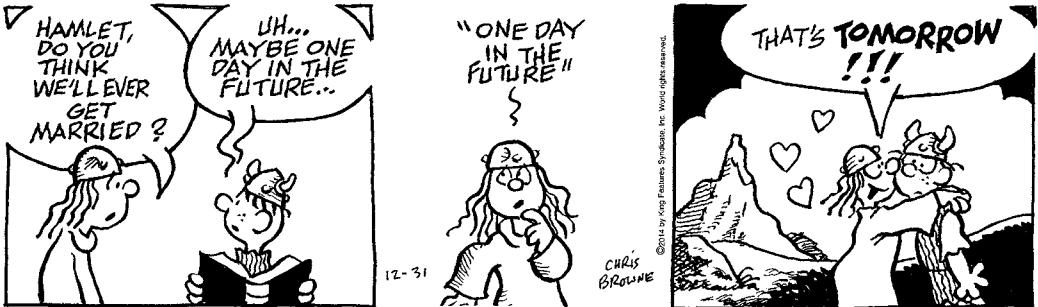
Previous Cryptoquote: FOOTBALL IS FOOTBALL AND TALENT IS TALENT. BUT THE MINDSET OF YOUR TEAM MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE. – Robert Griffin III

## COMICS

### Tundra



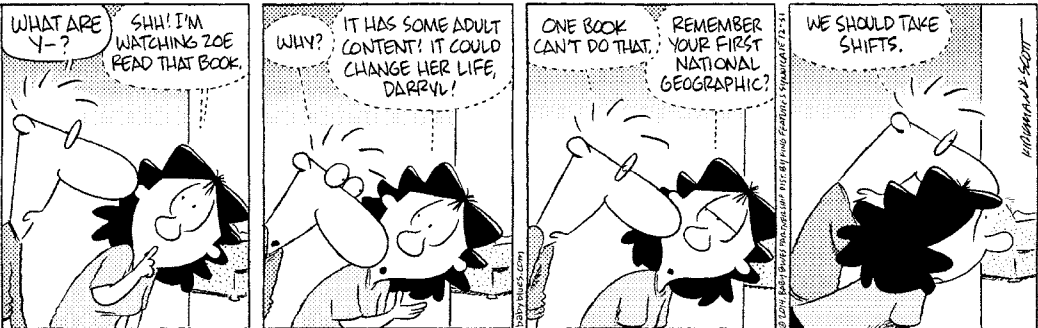
### Hagar the Horrible



### Peanuts



### Baby Blues



### Dilbert

