

# Teen initiates ‘the talk,’ but mom opts to dodge it

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm 16 and entering my junior year of high school. My boyfriend, "Jonah," and I have been dating for almost a year and we would like to become sexually active, but I'm scared condoms won't cut it. I have tried talking to my mom about it, but she doesn't think I should go on birth control.



DEAR ABBY

Abby, I'm just trying to keep the risk of getting pregnant as low as possible. I'm not sure my mom understands that. What should I do? I know for sure my mother will find out if I go to my doctor and talk privately about this with her. Please help me because I'm just trying to protect myself. — **PRACTICAL TEEN IN NEW YORK**

**DEAR PRACTICAL TEEN:** You appear to be a levelheaded young woman who is trying to make mature decisions. Discussing sex with parents can be difficult -- not only for you, but also for them.

If you are willing to talk about this with your mother again, try using a magazine, a TV show or my column as a jumping-off point to start the conversation. Sometimes it may take more than one talk to feel comfortable disclosing your personal feelings and intentions.

You should be able to get confidential health services from your doctor or another health care provider.

Depending upon where you live, however, parental permission may be needed. You will have to check to find out.

In terms of birth control methods, hormonal birth control is effective when used correctly. But using hormonal birth control and a condom TOGETHER offers the best protection from both pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

For many years, I have recommended Planned Parenthood (plannedparenthood.org) for reproductive health services, which include information, contraception, testing and education about a full range of options for women, men and teens across the United States. Its services are confidential and comply with relevant laws, which may vary from state to state.

Some Planned Parenthood centers scale their charges according to income, and most accept health insurance. Your local Planned Parenthood

health center can give you specific information about costs and policies. If you qualify, Medicaid or other state programs may lower the costs.

**DEAR ABBY:** Do you think it's bad that my two girls don't see their father? I don't keep them from him. He's welcome to see them, but he is now remarried and has never asked for them. He left our household 10 years ago.

To be honest, the girls don't even talk about him anymore. Is it OK to let them go on with their lives with the family members who are in it? — **NEW MEXICO MOMMY**

**DEAR NEW MEXICO MOMMY:** It's sad that your daughters have no relationship with their father. However, because he has shown no interest in having one with them, you have no option but to let them go on with their lives.

The question that comes to mind is, has he been supporting the girls financially? If the answer is no, you should have gotten a lawyer involved 10 years ago.

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

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

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.

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

## HOROSCOPES

**ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Interaction with an elder is something to cherish this week, Aries. Listen closely to the good advice you are offered, as it will pay dividends down the road.

**TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, a new coworker may come to you with questions. This is your opportunity to serve as a mentor and use your experience to help the next generation.

**GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21**  
Gemini, you are intent on purchasing an expensive item sometime this week, but make sure it can be returned. Hold on to the receipt and carefully survey your finances.

**CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22**  
It is time to get out of a rut, Cancer. Explore a new fashion choice or dine on a different type of ethnic food. The idea is to step out of your comfort zone.

**LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Leo, thoughts of returning to school may have floated around in your mind in the past. This week you are energized to investigate your educational options.

**VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Your creativity is on display this week, Virgo. You have ideas, and you need to put your thoughts in motion, whether through an art project or entrepreneurial venture.

**LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Your ability to compromise is a big asset in the workplace, Libra. This alone can propel your career to new heights. You'll take a few steps in the right direction this week.

**SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Your ability to stay informed helps you to feel in touch with your surroundings, Scorpio. You will enjoy socializing with friends this week and may host a gathering.

**SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Do your best to turn a negative into a positive, Sagittarius. It may require a little creative thinking to pull this off, but you are up to the task. Start by smiling more often.

**CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Family matters will fare better this week than business matters, Capricorn. Focus more of your energy on your home life than happenings at the office that are beyond your control.

**AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Aquarius, pay attention to all of the little details this week. If you can keep your eyes open, you may find new opportunities coming your way in the next few days.

**PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, don't let your emotions get the best of you when making an important decision this week. Let logic reign.

**FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**  
**MAY 25**  
Cillian Murphy, Actor (38)

**MAY 26**  
Stevie Nicks, Singer (66)

**MAY 27**  
Peri Gilpin, Actress (53)

**MAY 28**  
Colbie Caillat, Singer (29)

**MAY 29**  
Melanie (Mel B.) Brown, Singer (39)

**MAY 30**  
Idina Menzel, Actress (43)

**MAY 31**  
Colin Farrell, Actor (38)

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

- 1 "Believe" singer
- 5 Commotion
- 9 Utah city
- 10 Volcano parts
- 12 Valentine's gift
- 13 Comedic tribute
- 14 By barter
- 16 Golf's Michelle
- 17 Pre-Easter buy
- 18 Fresh
- 20 Conclusion
- 22 Looked over
- 23 Black of films
- 25 Big do
- 28 Diverts
- 32 Hurled weapon
- 34 Young seal
- 35 Pester
- 36 Spread throughout
- 38 Gives off
- 40 Squelch
- 41 Reason
- 42 Not sneaky
- 43 Easy targets
- 44 "Apollo 13" org.

### DOWN

- 1 Tandy's frequent co-star
- 2 Like some Web forums
- 3 Continually
- 4 Toto's biggest hit
- 5 Propeller type
- 6 Overly
- 7 Sort of
- 8 Dwell
- 9 Fall preceder
- 11 Spirited horse
- 15 Put down
- 19 List of choices

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

Previous Puzzle

- 21 Sacred picture
- 24 "Nature" essayist
- 25 Patron saint of young girls
- 26 Picture holders
- 27 Saskatchewan's capital
- 29 Outpourings
- 30 Writer Welty
- 31 Used up
- 33 Church areas
- 37 "Las Vegas"
- 39 Recipe amt.

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	30
32					33			34	
35					36			37	
38					39			40	
41								42	
								43	
								44	

5-24

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

- 1 Fire remnants
- 6 Sudan neighbor
- 10 Spartacus, for one
- 11 Timber wolves
- 13 Squad car sound
- 14 Parts of hearts
- 15 Top card
- 16 Hockey great Bobby
- 18 Like winter roads
- 19 May event
- 22 Small tablet
- 23 Storybook monster
- 24 TV's Philbin
- 27 Leg joints
- 28 Baseball's Moises
- 29 Take in
- 30 Monument honoring soldiers
- 35 Life story, for short
- 36 Programming error
- 37 Future embryos
- 38 Black cattle variety
- 40 Despises
- 42 Get more out of
- 43 Separated
- 44 Actor Connery

### DOWN

- 1 Bird abodes
- 1 Indian state
- 2 Pizza portion
- 3 Part of a sheik's household
- 4 Second person
- 5 Ladies of Spain
- 6 Nurse Barton
- 7 Sizzling
- 8 Shorten
- 9 "So what?"
- 12 Be agreeable
- 17 Free (of)
- 20 Poppy yield

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

Previous Puzzle

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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								32	33
35						36			37
38					39			40	41
42								43	
								45	

5-26

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.

## 5-24 CRYPTOQUOTE

H U J J V W L F G S V G Z G T U P X A  
F G J B A G M P B W U J O P Z V U W X H J  
K X L U P U D V V I K V M P G P U X J L  
U J G Q D G J M V X A P Z V V D V J P.  
— T W U G J P W G M E

Previous Cryptoquote: ONCE YOU REPLACE NEGATIVE THOUGHTS WITH POSITIVE ONES, YOU'LL START HAVING POSITIVE RESULTS. – Willie Nelson

## COMICS

### Tundra



### Hagar the Horrible



### Peanuts



### Baby Blues



### Dilbert

