

Written thank-yous for gifts show heartfelt appreciation

DEAR ABBY: I just turned 14 and had a small party with relatives to celebrate it. A few days later my mom bought me thank-you cards and said I should send them out.

I told the people “thank you” for the gifts in person. I don’t think thank-you cards are necessary for something as small as birthdays. Shouldn’t they be reserved for things like weddings and baby showers?

Mom and I are anxious to see your answer. — **NO THANK-YOU**

DEAR NO THANK-YOU: Listen to your mother because she’s trying to tell you something important. When people do something nice for you – such as give you a birthday or Christmas gift – their thoughtfulness and generosity should be acknowledged with a written thank-you. It’s not a waste of your time.

People are inclined to be more generous to those who show their appreciation, as you will learn in many situations as time passes.

DEAR ABBY: My sister has a 1-year-old baby boy we all adore. He is a cute little guy. My sister is understandably proud, but



DEAR ABBY

sometimes I feel it goes too far.

She sends pictures of him with captions like, “Cutest Baby Ever,” or “He’s the BEST!” She dresses him in shirts that say, “FAVORITE” or “The Greatest.”

I feel it is rude to other parents and insensitive to other kids because it implies that other people’s children don’t measure up. Also, there are some adorable little cousins living in the same household as the “perfect” baby.

We ALL have attractive children, but not all of us feel the need to put others down in order to compliment our offspring. Am I overly sensitive, or is my sister tactless? — **IDAHO AUNTIE**

DEAR IDAHO AUNTIE: Your sister is over-the-moon about her baby

boy. Shirts like this for toddlers are very common. The children in that household are probably too young to read what’s printed on the T-shirts and feel slighted, so simmer down and don’t take it personally.

DEAR ABBY: Some time ago we were given a very expensive dining room set by relatives. No one else in the family wanted it, and we took it because our dining room pieces were old.

Now we would like to sell this set and buy something less formal and more comfortable. Do we have any obligation to the original owners? — **NEEDS ADVICE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE**

DEAR NEEDS ADVICE: If the dining room set was “lent” to you by the relatives, you should consult them. However, if it was GIVEN to you, then you have no obligation to do so and you may dispose of it as you wish.

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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	4		5			
6			4			
			8		4	5
		7	5	3	9	2
5	6					4
	3	9		4	8	7
	9	8		4		
				2		1
			1		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 to find the solution.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you can have all of the inspiration in the world, but without some practical application, your idea will stall. Spend some time thinking things through.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

You are torn between two choices, Taurus. Family matters are on one side, and work responsibilities are on the other. It may take a few days to work out a decision.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, it’s difficult to contain all of your enthusiasm, so share your excitement and happiness with others. Try tackling some other people’s projects.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jun 22

Cancer, you will be front and center in the days to come. Don’t be nervous, as you’re fully capable of handling the extra attention. Enjoy the spotlight while it lasts.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you will be full of energy this week. Use this energy and enthusiasm to your advantage, tackling projects you have let go unfinished but want to get done.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, immerse yourself in activities that put you first over the next few days. Whether it’s a date or simply alone time, enjoy it and start tending to your needs.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, getting back into the swing of things after a long vacation can be challenging. But you will have no problem getting back into a groove and getting all of your work done.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Try turning something you enjoy doing for fun into a career, Scorpio. Loving what you get paid to do is a key to a happy life, so figure out a way to make that happen.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, you may be adept at finding an easy way around a difficult thing, but sometimes taking the hard road offers good life lessons along the way.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Family needs take precedence over your obligations at work, Capricorn. Higher-ups will just have to be patient if they want to keep you on as an employee.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, everyone expects you to provide advice, but this week you may be in need of guidance. It could be because you have been tackling so many projects lately.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Few things escape your attention, Pisces. However, this week you can expect to be happily surprised by good news.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER 14
Robert Herjavec, Billionaire (51)

SEPTEMBER 15
Oliver Stone, Director (68)

SEPTEMBER 16
Amy Poehler, Comic Actress (43)

SEPTEMBER 17
Nate Berkus, Designer (43)

SEPTEMBER 18
James Marsden, Actor (41)

SEPTEMBER 19
Jimmy Fallon, TV Host (40)

SEPTEMBER 20
Phillip Phillips, Singer (24)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Hardens

5 Singer

9 Isaac’s

mother

10 “The

Balcony”

playwright

12 Crockett’s

last stand

13 Burton of

“Roots”

14 Supple

16 One of

Jo’s

sisters

17 Time to

prepare

18 Diatribes

20 Role for

Mel

Gibson

22 Budget

amount

23 Top

players

25 Name of

more than

20 popes

28 Solid

carbon

dioxide

32 American

marsupial

34 Dallas

player,

for short

35 Tapped

item

36 Run

38 Door

sign

40 Chad

neighbor

41 Hotel

option

42 Sluggish

43 Dessert

fruit

44 Tacks on

DOWN

1 Digestive

aid

2 Made

blank

3 Scots’

caps

4 Try to hit

5 Wolfish

sort

6 Casual

top

7 Overrun

8 Tars

9 Witch

trial

town

27 Hamper

11 Secret

meeting

15 Confused

19 Host

21 Supplies

with staff

24 Georgia

neighbor

25 Routine

parts

26 Police

order

27 Hamper

29 Projected

onto a

screen

30 Handles

the party

31 Tennis

star Chris

33 More

tender

37 Orange

cover

39 Greek

vowel

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	31
32			33			34		
35			36			37		
38		39			40			
41					42			
	43				44			

9-13

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Practices

for a bout

6 Duck

feature

10 Thus far

11 Bye, in

Baja

13 Suspect’s

defense

14 Block, as

a river

15 Ewe’s

mate

16 Old horse

18 Wedding

words

19 Fashion

pioneer

22 Sort

23 Tenant’s

fee

24 Deli counter

sight

27 Lathered

up

28 Book unit

29 Good

times

30 Silky-

coated

dog

35 Lynx or

lion

36 Longing

37 Bullfight

cheer

38 Steer

clear of

40 Sea walls

42 New

Jersey’s

— Hall

University

43 Build

44 Headey of

“Game of

Thrones”

45 Tirades

DOWN

1 Begin

2 From the

Arctic

3 Some

Japanese

films

4 Hold up

5 Cheat

6 Police ID

7 Lupino of

films

8 Scarce

9 Turns up

12 Sleek

and

stylish

17 Inquire

29 Try out

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

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				31			32	33	34
35				36			37		
38			39			40	41		
42						43			
	44					45			