

Husband who relives his past should focus on his present

DEAR ABBY: I'm married to the love of my life. I can't imagine loving a man more than I love "Wayne," and I know he feels the same about me. The problem is, he's always telling stories about things he has done, including past relationships, in graphic detail.

I have heard all of them repeatedly, and I'm sick of them. When I tell him this he says, "Fine! I won't talk to you anymore." Wayne never talks about OUR past, present or future. How can I get him to stop reliving "the good ol' days" and start focusing on our life together? — **CURRENT EVENT IN KENTUCKY**

DEAR CURRENT EVENT: Wayne may react defensively when you say you're "sick" of his stories because he feels you are criticizing him. Perhaps if you told him that hearing him dwell on past relationships is hurtful, he might be willing to enlarge his repertoire.

If that doesn't help, it's possible your husband feels his best years are behind him. Past conquests and adventures can be more fun to dwell on than the new lawnmower, the plumbing that needs replacement, which friends are sick and the most recent one who died. Things might improve if you work together to create activities that will spice up your lives and give him



DEAR ABBY

some new material. Try it. It might benefit you both.

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with "Bob" for 12 years. He doesn't work and doesn't take care of our children because he says it's "not his responsibility." I have supported him all this time, yet nothing is good enough.

He has cheated on me several times. During his third affair, he had two kids with the other woman. He doesn't understand why I don't trust him and why I insist on seeing his cellphone. The last time I was able to get ahold of it, he broke down the bathroom door trying to get it back.

He threatens to move out, and if he does, that will be "the last I hear from him." I would be relieved if he went. I have so much anger toward him. I love him, but at this point love doesn't have anything to do with it.

I have asked him several times to leave, but he just keeps saying he'll be leav-

ing on his own terms. I can't continue like this anymore. He brings out the worst in me and I hate it. What do I do? — **HAD IT IN PHOENIX**

DEAR HAD IT: That you have tolerated this behavior for 12 years boggles my mind. Because this phillandering freeloader has resided with you for so long, you may have to go through formal eviction proceedings to get rid of him. You have given him a free ride, and you may need the services of a lawyer to pry him out of there. If you do, consider it money well spent.

DEAR ABBY: If a spouse keeps photos of a college sweetheart after 50 years, what does it mean? Does it mean he is still carrying a torch for that person and doesn't want to forget her? — **SUSPICIOUS IN HOUSTON**

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: I doubt it, but if you want to be sure, the person you should ask is your husband. After 50 years, the "torch" may be too heavy to carry – or completely out.

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.

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

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

HELOISE'S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

Storing Cooking Fat: The Sequel

Dear Readers: Recently, a reader shared her hint about STORING COOKING FAT in a glass jar, in the freezer, before garbage day. Here are just a couple of readers' hints on the subject.

■ Lori J., via email, said: "Simply keep the fat in a container in the fridge, rather than the freezer. On a cat-litter-changing day, pour the fat into the soiled litter, which will absorb it. Put it in the trash as usual." Heloise here: I do hope it is put into a plastic jar!

■ Clifford W. in Louisiana wrote: "I have found that used laundry-detergent bottles also can be used to pour that excess fat or used grease into. I store it under the sink until it is full, and then I put it out in the trash. The odor of the detergent residue in the bottle also cuts down on the smell." Heloise here: Please be sure that the grease is cool – it might melt the plastic jug! — Heloise

Send A Great Hint To:
Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
Email: [Heloise\(at\)Heloise.com](mailto:Heloise(at)Heloise.com)

Testing Doneness

Dear Heloise: When baking a cake or muffins, the instructions often say to test for doneness with a toothpick or knife. If it comes out clean, the product is cooked. For me, a toothpick often is too short, and a knife can mess up the appearance.

Then I found something that works perfectly! I bought a package of 100 wooden barbecue skewers that are 10 inches long and very inexpensive. They work great! I won't use anything else. — Louise G., Neptune, N.J.

Freezing Onions

Dear Heloise: May I add to your hint about freezing chopped onions and garlic for later use? (Heloise here: A reader asked if chopped onions and garlic could be frozen.)

It's important to spread the chopped items out in a single layer on a cookie sheet, freeze them like that, then package the frozen bits in a plastic bag. That way, you can scoop out the amount you need and keep the rest frozen. If you pack them before freezing, they'll end up in a big clump! — Lisa in Tennessee

A very good hint, Lisa! Cookie sheets also are a great way to freeze all types of berries. Glad you wrote! — Heloise

No Mess

Dear Heloise: To save money and eat healthy, I usually pack a lunch for work. I mainly make salads, but I kept having a problem with the salad dressing. I didn't want the dressing already on the salad.

I took an empty, glass spice jar and cleaned it. The lid screws on tight, so I can place salad dressing in it and not worry about it leaking. — Kim J., Kansas City, Mo.

A two-for-one hint -- save money and eat well! Love it! — Heloise

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Twitch

6 Computer fodder

10 Overly virile

11 Speeders' worries

12 Quiver item

13 Fuming

14 Real hoot

15 Kindle

16 Bar bill

17 Historic time

18 Filming site

19 Ocean banks

22 Flight part

23 Head-phones site

26 Mild onions

29 Fitting

32 Completely

33 Barn sound

34 Easter event

36 Rotate

37 Cabaret sight

38 European fashion center

39 Getting on

40 Old saw

41 Fallon's predecessor

42 Doctrine

DOWN

1 Know-how

2 Outcasts

3 Circus performer

4 Bar order

5 Do a yard job

6 Bedrock pet

7 Black cattle variety

8 Far from wordy

9 So far

11 Adieu

15 In the past

17 Dominant guy, figuratively

20 "— Misérables"

21 Mineo of movies

24 "Star Trek" baddy

25 Closet use

27 Brewpub product

28 Shake-speare work

29 Shock ables"

30 Pitcher

31 Use the gym

35 —

Domini

36 Ocean motion

38 Small rug

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

Previous Puzzle

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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36									
38									
40									
42									

8-20

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Inferno describer

6 Milk buy

11 Honolulu hello

12 City-based

13 Frugal fellow

14 Bumbling

15 Makes law

17 Buddy

19 Dove's cry

20 "The Bells" writer

23 Dress

25 Waiting rewards

26 Volcanic vent surroundings

28 Wallet bills

29 Phone feature

30 "You bet!"

31 Vigor

32 Coral island

33 Coped

35 "Enigma Variations" composer

38 Distrustful sort

41 Bandage material

42 Tipped

43 Made a choice

44 Cubicle fixtures

2 Boxing great

3 Rocket parts

4 Subsequently

5 Otologist's case

6 South American capital

7 Coffee dispensers

8 Tad's dad

9 Jay-Z's genre

10 Blasting stuff

16 Arm-twisted

17 Enterprise doc

18 In — (straight)

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

Previous Puzzle

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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11										
13										