

The key to being well-liked is to make yourself likable

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 15-year-old girl. When I'm with the high school group of kids at my church, I try to extend myself and talk, but they never reciprocate much. I always have to try to think of something to say and be careful I don't embarrass myself. Especially around guys, I feel awkward and self-conscious.



DEAR ABBY

I feel OK about myself, but I still get nervous. Other girls find things to talk about to each other but not me, and guys never talk to me first, either. I don't know if I'm doing something wrong or being too careful.

I'm an only child. I get along pretty well with adults, but I have a hard time with kids. I heard you have a booklet about these issues. If you think it might help me, how can I order it? — **UNPOPULAR IN SACRAMENTO**

DEAR UNPOPULAR: Part of your problem may be that you're an only child, which can be isolating. If you spend most of your time with adults, it's understandable that you are less comfortable with people your own age. But don't let it stop you from trying to be friendly. If guys don't speak to you first, they're probably feeling as awkward as you are. To smile and say hello is NOT being pushy. My booklet "How to Be Popular" is filled with suggestions for polishing social skills. It covers a variety of social situations

and is meant for people of all ages. To order, send your name and address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. There are tips for becoming the kind of person other people find interesting, attractive and want to know better. (If parents, teachers and clergy know someone needing help in this regard, it might make an inexpensive gift that could help change the course of that person's life.)

The key to being well-liked by both sexes is: Be kind. Be honest. Be tactful. Don't be afraid to give someone a compliment if you think it's deserved. If you think you're not beautiful (or handsome), be well-groomed, tastefully dressed, conscious of your posture. (People who stand tall and smile project self-confidence.)

If you're not a "brain," try harder. If you are smarter than most, don't be a know-it-all. Ask other people what

they think and encourage them to share their opinions. If you're not a good athlete, be a good sport.

Think for yourself, but respect the rules. Be generous with kind words and affectionate gestures, but respect yourself and your family values always. If you think "putting out" will make boys like you, forget it. (It won't work, and later you'll be glad you didn't.) If you need help, ask God. If you don't need anything, THANK God!

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 27-year-old male, and I have no clue how to read women's subtle interest cues, if they ever display any. I'd like to think they have, given that I put in at least two days a week at the gym working with weights.

Since you are a woman, could you please be so kind as to give this man a clue what to look for? It's driving me nuts! — **AVAILABLE IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR AVAILABLE: The most obvious clues that a woman finds you attractive are eye contact and a smile. That's your opening to make conversation. The rest is up to you!

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

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

HELOISE'S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

Butter Is the Real Deal
Dear Heloise: When a recipe calls for BUTTER, does it mean real butter, or can you use margarine? Will it make a difference? I always associated "butter" with margarine, but I know they are not the same. — Cynthia Z., via email

Yes, they are not the same! Butter and margarine are very different: One is from animals, and the other is man-made. They taste different, too. However, when cooking and baking most items, stick margarine usually can be interchanged with butter. But if you are substituting margarine for butter, be sure to use one that is at least 80 percent vegetable oil.

In most pastries, cookies and candy, you really should use the real deal, unless the recipe has been tested with stick margarine. — Heloise

Letter Of Laughter

Dear Heloise: Since a grapefruit knife was mentioned several times in your column, I had to tell this story about mine:

When my son was 7 or 8 years old, he was outside working diligently with a hammer. Later he walked in the house holding my grapefruit knife. It was as straight as an arrow, and he said: "Look, Mom. I fixed your knife. It's straight now." — Barbara M., via email

How darling, and you couldn't scold him, either! — Heloise

No Slip

Dear Heloise: I have a large food processor that chops, shreds, slices, etc. The suction plate for it is clamped to the counter by using a small lever.

It would no longer adhere, so I tried washing the plate with pure vinegar, and lo and behold, it really grips the countertop now. If this works on the counter, it probably would clean any suction-cup device that adheres to windows, etc. — Joan, via email

Yes, vinegar will clean away a lot of grease and grime! It is such a versatile product -- everyone should have a gallon handy. I use vinegar for more things than you can imagine! Heloise's Fantabulous Vinegar Hints and More pamphlet is stuffed with money-saving hints using this miracle liquid. To order one, please send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (70 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Vinegar, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Boiling cabbage? To cut down on odor, add a splash of vinegar to the cooking water. — Heloise

Egg Holder

Dear Heloise: When I need to take two eggs out of the fridge and place them on the counter, I use my scissors and place the two eggs in the finger holds. This way, the eggs never roll around the counter, and when they are ready to use, they are still safe. — Jan in Utah

Dust Collector

Dear Heloise: Anyone who has cleaned the space above the refrigerator or kitchen cabinets knows how dirty and greasy it is. When cleaning them, cover the space above with a layer of paper, and next time, just replace it. No cleaning! — Marlene O., Dayton, Ohio

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Puccini opera

6 Old Italian coin

10 Ham, e.g.

11 Frisco player

12 Publicity act

13 Houston player

14 Big book

15 Vitamin C source

16 Decline

17 Buddy

18 Count starter

19 Bullpen pitcher

22 Budget amount

23 Salon jobs

26 One of the faithful

29 Funny fellow

32 Nonsense

33 Juan Perón's wife

34 Sudden

36 "— Brockovich"

37 Shrek's love

38 Refine ore

39 Camera creator

40 Super-market section

41 Take five

42 Mink's cousin

DOWN

1 Wine expert

2 Harvest month

3 Trip

4 Volcano shape

5 Gallery fill

6 Shopping aid

7 Prelude

8 Second airing

9 Came

11 "I did that perfectly!"

15 Cleveland player, for short

17 Leader of the Lost Boys

20 Bach's Mass —

21 Deli choice

24 Neighbor of K2

25 Figaro's home

27 Auction buy

28 Crazy talker

29 Thin cookie

30 Tolerate

31 Gets bigger

35 Foot or hand

36 Put out

38 — Paulo

S	E	T	S		O	T	I	S
S	A	R	A	H	G	E	N	E
A	L	A	M	O	L	E	V	A
L	I	S	S	O	M	E	A	M
E	V	E	T	I	R	A	D	E
M	A	D	M	A	X	R	E	N
			A	T	E	A	M	
J	O	H	N		D	R	I	C
O	P	O	S	S	U	M		M
K	E	G		O	P	E	R	A
E	N	T	E	R		N	I	G
S	U	I	T	E		I	N	E
P	E	A	R		A	D	D	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	
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29	30	31				32			33
34								36	
37								38	
39								40	
41								42	

9-17

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 "It's a Wonderful Life" director

6 Brief

11 In the area

12 Shade

13 Some lights

14 Irish author

15 Abates

17 Beatles descriptor

19 Cash dispenser

20 "My word!"

23 Denali setting

25 Rum mixer

26 They may be served at the beach

28 Just

29 Phone photo

30 In medias —

31 Great weight

32 Nap sack

33 Red Cross headquarters

35 Ornamental flower

38 Movies

41 Pious sort

42 Ocean arm

43 Resort spots

44 Irritable

DOWN

1 Soup buy

2 Homer's dad

3 They may be in pockets

4 Celtic letter

5 On the line

6 Rugby scuffle

7 Old skirt part

8 Outmoded

9 Curtain holder

10 Take a stab at

16 Extends a visit

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

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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13							14			
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						16				
17	18					19			20	21
23						24			25	
26								27		
28								29		
30						31			32	
						33			34	
35	36	37						38		39
41								42		
43								44		

9-18

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.

9-17

CRYPTOQUOTE

L J K H A M Q B Y A S Y A S C M

K H J N H B C M L R M U L U Q S C M

H D M U C L U Q Y A S C M N M X H B

T M F J X . — D M F A Y L U D F H R M F I

Previous Cryptoquote: DEFINITENESS OF PURPOSE IS THE STARTING POINT OF ALL ACHIEVEMENT. — W. Clement Stone

COMICS

Tundra



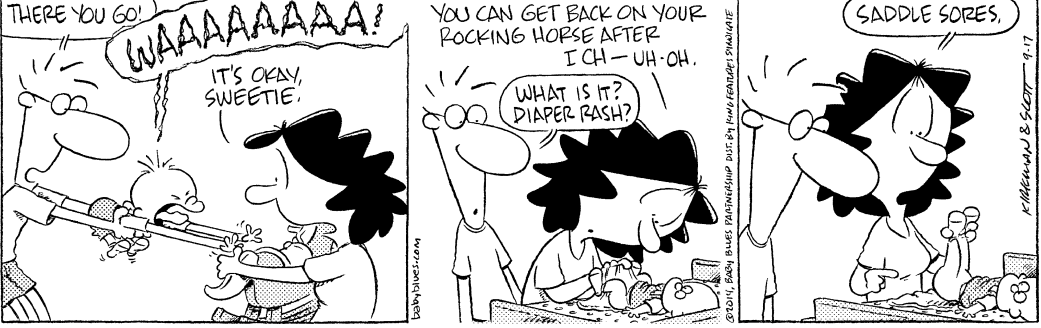
Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

