

# TIME OUT

## Horoscope

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, July 30, 2017:

This year you create a lot of excitement. As a result, you open up emotionally and enjoy yourself more. There also is a side of you that is intense and secretive, which emerges once in a while in social occasions!

**The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult**

### ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Relate to others directly, but know that you might have a problem dealing with your temper when speaking with a key family member. Your intuition helps you make a good choice about how to interact with this person. Tonight: Why not have a date night with a loved one?

**This Week:** Others seem to want to run with the ball. Let them.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Defer to others. Ask questions in order to come to a conclusive understanding, if not an agreement. You might not have the same solutions, but you have the same issue. Respect your differences. Tonight: Accept an invitation that is sure to add a

lively tone to the moment. **This Week:** Listen to what is being shared.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

You could be tired. Take today off for some extra R and R. You need to honor your needs if you want to go full steam ahead more often. A conversation with a friend could become testy for some reason. Pull back before you have an argument. Tonight: Get a head start on tomorrow.

**This Week:** You will find many distractions around you this week.

### CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Your imagination comes into play with a loved one. Let go of a problem, and refuse to get into a squabble. Get into the moment. A call or email from someone at a distance makes you smile. You might sense that more is going on than was revealed. Tonight: Act like a kid again.

**This Week:** Your creativity energizes a project.

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You could be in the mood to change direction. Stay close to home, and invite a friend or two over for a late lunch of a game you all enjoy. You might like

not being as much on the go as usual. A partner understands how you feel, so you don't need to say much. Tonight: Wind down.

**This Week:** Handle a personal matter first.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Speak your mind, but also listen to what a loved one has to say. The more you share, the better your understanding of each other will become. You see a loved one as being nearly perfect. Be careful, as this person could fall off his or her pedestal. Tonight: Order in.

**This Week:** You are likely to say a lot, but might wish you had said less.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Be aware of how possessive you can be. You might want to ask yourself why you are so insecure. On the other hand, this possessiveness also reflects how much you value this person. Open up a discussion, and find your way through this issue. Tonight: Splurge a little.

**This Week:** Check your budget and expenses.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Understand what is happening with a respected associate. Listen carefully and help this person to gain a new perspective. Your ingenuity and creativity come forward to solve a problem and come up with solutions. Tonight: All smiles. Act like it is Saturday night!

**This Week:** You will be unstoppable Monday and Tuesday!

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You could feel out of sorts and not understand what needs to happen to change your mood. Perhaps it is your perspective mixed with a little insecurity. Talk to a trusted family member who has known you his or her whole life and get some feedback. Tonight: Make it an early night.

**This Week:** Your personality commands the moment.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You might be easily drawn into a happening hosted by some friends. Whether it's a cookout or a softball game, you'll enjoy yourself and let go of stress. Try to keep this attitude going as long as you can. A partner could be argumentative. Tonight: Where the action is.

**This Week:** The best days of the week will be Monday and Thursday.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Take charge and help others free themselves up for a fun afternoon out. The more relaxed you are, the better next week will be. Others could be somewhat argumentative. Avoid having an argument or playing into someone's negative mood. Tonight: You could go till the wee hours.

**This Week:** You succeed in carrying a project to its end.

### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Reach out to someone at a distance. You could be delighted by this person's news. You might not know how to handle the information. Direct some of your frustration into a physical activity. It won't hurt to weed the yard. Tonight: Off to a movie.

**This Week:** Look beyond the obvious.

# Textual relations

Did you see the recent "Modern Love" column in *The New York Times* by a woman who sits down with her boyfriend once a year to update their four-page, single-spaced "relationship contract"? The story made for fairly painful reading, particularly for the romantically inclined, inasmuch as it contained negotiated details such as who cleans the kitchen counters and who cleans the bathtub, as well as rules for the proper disposal of sweaty socks.

But it was so much more than boring. It also was irritating ("We each have desires that deserve to be named and recognized ...") and monumentally pretentious ("We agree to be monogamous because, right now, monogamy suits us.")

I instantly conspired with my friend Gina Barreca, the feminist scholar, to come up with a more realistic and down-to-earth contract. The key was *intense negotiation*.

We will not be one of those couples who, at a party, sits next to each other as if sharing one femur; this, however, in no way condones infidelity. Should a flirtation result, both parties agree that it will be frankly evaluated and deconstructed afterward by the concerned party at *whatever length necessary*, probably a length so great that this offense will likely never happen again.

We will read at least two of the same books per month so that we can discuss them. In one of these books, much of the dialogue will be interior, involving long-repressed emotions, wistfulness and yearning. In the other, there will be punching of faces. In neither book will there be even a single vampire, inasmuch as we solemnly agree we are not adolescents.

Commercial breaks are not occasions to change TV channels without the consent of the other party. Such actions are therefore prohibited. This rule will be suspended on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays during the month of October, when the baseball playoffs unhappily coincide with the football season. In exchange for this generously offered kindness, both parties will agree to watch "Say Yes to the Dress" *together* twice a year, with no snide commentary.

While we agree in principle (with some reservations on the part of one party) that joke-telling is a skill that benefits from rehearsal, we stipulate that there will be no tedious telling of the same joke in exactly the same way (including pauses, facial expressions and hand gestures) more than twice a year. No exceptions will be made for out-of-town guests.

In bed, we will not move abruptly and vindictively in order to awaken the other person who has the temerity to be asleep when we are not, or to be snoring, snorting or farting. Moreover, we acknowledge mutually, if with extreme reservations on the part of one party, that the snorer, snorter or farter might possibly be female, because it happens sometimes, even if it must not ever be referred to outside of this document.

We will agree to robustly celebrate designated holidays of which we mutually approve, such as Halloween and Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve, and pointedly ignore others, such as New Year's Day, whose purpose is sullenly recuperative and is traditionally filled with unnecessarily guilt-inducing pledges of self-improvement, often disproportionately involving weight loss. Moreover, we agree that inasmuch as Valentine's Day is generally celebrated in one direction only, in compensation the male in this relationship can choose whatever idiot holiday for which he wishes to be feted, such as National Fried Chicken Day, which is July 6, and for which the male spouse will be gastronomically rewarded, as revolting as that is.

Both parties acknowledge that it is a scientific fact that they will age at exactly the same rate — that despite certain longstanding, heinous societal assumptions, women do not age at seven times the rate of men, the way dogs do, or at 3,600 times the rate of men, as butterflies do. This final item was written by one party in the hope the other party stops secretly obsessing about this thing. Because he loves her.



Gene Weingarten  
The Washington Post

## Last week's answer

O	L	A	V	S		P	J	S		N	E	B	S		P	O	S	H		
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## Chess quiz

WHITE HAS A CRUSHER  
Hint: A one-two punch.  
Solution: 1. Rc8ch! Kf7 2. Be8ch (wins the queen).

## Scratch pad

## New York Times Sunday Crossword

### BACK ON THE CHARTS BY CALEB MADISON / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                                                                                                                                               | <b>50</b> Rhyme scheme ending a villanelle                     | <b>92</b> Ones "from Mars"                             | <b>5</b> <i>Make airtight, in a way</i> [4]                    |
| <b>1</b> Top                                                                                                                                                | <b>52</b> French word between two surnames                     | <b>93</b> Inits. in some parlors                       | <b>6</b> Others of ancient Rome?                               |
| <b>5</b> Wears                                                                                                                                              | <b>53</b> Intl. commerce grp.                                  | <b>94</b> American-born Jordanian queen                | <b>7</b> Band member's time to shine                           |
| <b>10</b> Pioneer in computer chess                                                                                                                         | <b>54</b> Banded gemstones                                     | <b>95</b> "Shoo!"                                      | <b>8</b> In public                                             |
| <b>13</b> Channel setting on many airport TVs                                                                                                               | <b>55</b> Bert who sang "If I Only Had the Nerve"              | <b>98</b> Org. behind the Human Genome Project         | <b>9</b> Monster's moniker                                     |
| <b>16</b> Gets cheeky with?                                                                                                                                 | <b>57</b> Poor People's Campaign organizer, for short          | <b>99</b> Lewis ____, 1848                             | <b>10</b> <i>Healthy</i> [4]                                   |
| <b>18</b> Act on a sudden itch to be hitched                                                                                                                | <b>59</b> Frequent Bosch setting                               | <b>100</b> 11th-century campaign [4]                   | <b>11</b> "Don't ____ hero!"                                   |
| <b>19</b> Fit for service                                                                                                                                   | <b>60</b> Capital accumulation                                 | <b>103</b> Put in stitches                             | <b>12</b> <i>Nightshade family member</i> [5]                  |
| <b>20</b> It may be seeded                                                                                                                                  | <b>61</b> Dance craze of the 2010s                             | <b>105</b> Like the Salt Lake Bees baseball team       | <b>13</b> <i>Prized possession</i> [5]                         |
| <b>21</b> Even (with)                                                                                                                                       | <b>63</b> "____ and animals are free" (party slogan in "1984") | <b>106</b> Decoration for an R.A.F. pilot              | <b>14</b> Home of the Gallatin Sch. of Individualized Study    |
| <b>22</b> Roger who battled 13-Across                                                                                                                       | <b>65</b> "____ Mine" (George Harrison book)                   | <b>107</b> "Will you let me have a taste?"             | <b>15</b> Take home                                            |
| <b>23</b> Utter                                                                                                                                             | <b>66</b> <i>Like some lawyers' work</i> [4]                   | <b>112</b> Clothing associated with Hillary Clinton    | <b>17</b> Unit around one foot?                                |
| <b>25</b> Cut, Paste and Print                                                                                                                              | <b>67</b> Musical talent                                       | <b>115</b> "Same here"                                 | <b>19</b> Spending                                             |
| <b>27</b> Degree in math?                                                                                                                                   | <b>68</b> Cartographer                                         | <b>116</b> Like many pools and highways                | <b>23</b> Mich. neighbor                                       |
| <b>28</b> Mountain ____                                                                                                                                     | <b>71</b> Try to sink one's teeth into                         | <b>117</b> Cooperation                                 | <b>24</b> Mater ____                                           |
| <b>29</b> Copse makeup                                                                                                                                      | <b>72</b> Cheap cooking implement                              | <b>118</b> They begin trading, for short               | <b>26</b> <i>One doing routine office work, informally</i> [5] |
| <b>30</b> <i>Title character in a 1943 French novella</i> [6]                                                                                               | <b>76</b> Like, forever                                        | <b>119</b> Frankincense, e.g.                          | <b>34</b> Praises highly                                       |
| <b>35</b> Zap                                                                                                                                               | <b>77</b> Steely Dan's best-selling album                      | <b>120</b> Singer of a famous bath-time song           | <b>35</b> At all, in dialect                                   |
| <b>37</b> Pedagogic org.                                                                                                                                    | <b>78</b> Naval noncoms                                        | <b>121</b> Crooked                                     | <b>36</b> Me.-to-Fla. route                                    |
| <b>39</b> Vote for                                                                                                                                          | <b>80</b> E'erlasting                                          | <b>122</b> Barack Obama's mother                       | <b>38</b> Color of el mar                                      |
| <b>40</b> Pacific capital                                                                                                                                   | <b>81</b> ____ one-eighty                                      | <b>123</b> Sturm und ____                              | <b>45</b> Butt                                                 |
| <b>41</b> N.F.L.'s Jaguars, on scoreboards                                                                                                                  | <b>82</b> Bleeping government org.?                            | <b>124</b> Garner                                      | <b>48</b> Flowers native to damp woods                         |
| <b>42</b> Sugar suffix                                                                                                                                      | <b>84</b> Trophy figure                                        | <b>DOWN</b>                                            | <b>49</b> "Please, I'll handle it"                             |
| <b>43</b> 1990 Literature Nobel Octavio ____                                                                                                                | <b>86</b> "Why are you looking at me?" [4]                     | <b>1</b> Like some radios                              | <b>50</b> Totally LOL-worthy                                   |
| <b>44</b> Toner-cartridge contents                                                                                                                          | <b>88</b> Where It. is                                         | <b>2</b> "Born Sinner" rapper J. ____                  | <b>51</b> <i>Dave of jazz</i> [4]                              |
| <b>46</b> Is from ancient Rome?                                                                                                                             | <b>89</b> Inverse trig function                                | <b>3</b> <i>17,000+-foot peak near the Equator</i> [4] | <b>56</b> Supermodel Lima                                      |
| <b>47</b> <i>The Big Pineapple</i> [4]                                                                                                                      | <b>91</b> Agcy. that oversaw plants                            | <b>4</b> Guarantee                                     | <b>58</b> Certain fire sign                                    |
| Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, <a href="http://nytimes.com/crosswords">nytimes.com/crosswords</a> (\$39.95 a year). |                                                                |                                                        | <b>59</b> Like the Greek god Pan                               |

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|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>62</b> Flip out                                         | <b>74</b> Long range                                                | <b>87</b> <i>Pulling off bank jobs</i> [5]                        | <b>104</b> Noah of "ER"                     |
| <b>63</b> <i>One leading the exercises, for short?</i> [4] | <b>75</b> Bright lights                                             | <b>90</b> Teddy Roosevelt targets                                 | <b>108</b> Grp. with a mission              |
| <b>64</b> Singer Bonnie                                    | <b>79</b> ____ song                                                 | <b>96</b> Much-swiped item                                        | <b>109</b> "Sure, sign me up!"              |
| <b>66</b> Sandwich inits.                                  | <b>82</b> <i>1940 Disney release</i> [3]                            | <b>97</b> Short trailer                                           | <b>110</b> Predecessor of Rabin             |
| <b>68</b> Having as ingredients                            | <b>83</b> Swamp swimmer                                             | <b>99</b> Borgia who was an illegitimate son of Pope Alexander VI | <b>111</b> What's lost in "Paradise Lost"   |
| <b>69</b> Guinea-pig relative                              | <b>85</b> Woman who took a "roll in ze hay" in "Young Frankenstein" | <b>101</b> Took a breather                                        | <b>112</b> Rabbit's foot                    |
| <b>70</b> <i>Fruity spirit</i> [6]                         |                                                                     | <b>102</b> Message from the marooned                              | <b>113</b> It's inspired                    |
| <b>73</b> <i>Vain, temperamental sort</i> [7]              |                                                                     |                                                                   | <b>114</b> Original "Veronica Mars" channel |