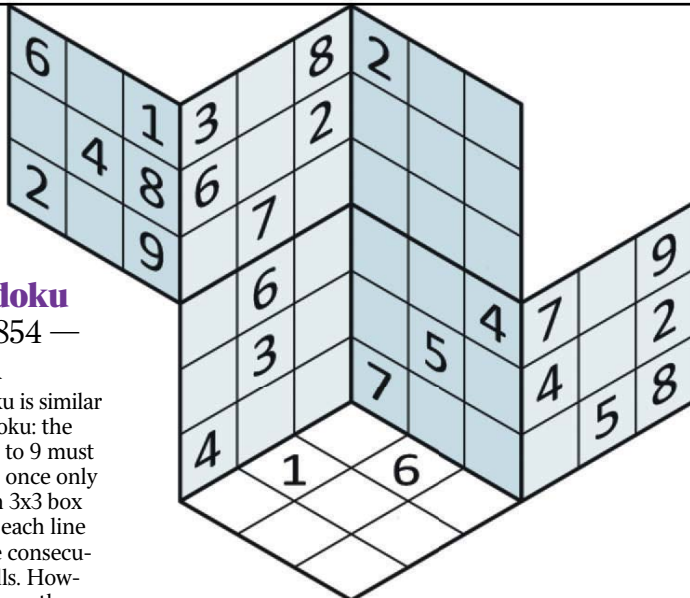


Samurai Sudoku No 940 — Medium

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

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



Tredoku

No 1854 — Hard

Tredoku is similar to Sudoku: the digits 1 to 9 must appear once only in each 3x3 box and in each line of nine consecutive cells. However, since the puzzle is three-dimensional, the lines may be straight or bent around angles. Follow each line's direction in search of clues.

Square Routes®

No 287 — Easy
Ian Simpson & Richard Heald

				*
*				*
		*		
	*		*	
*				*

DECK
ELECTRIC
ROCKING
SEDAN
SLEDGE
WHEEL
WINDSOR

Put one letter in each cell so that each word on the right can be spelt out by moving from cell to cell without using diagonal moves. You can use a cell more than once in a word (including backtracking into a cell you've just used), but double letters (eg, the LL in ALL) must use two adjacent cells. The words start in the coloured cells and the vowels are shown by asterisks.

Sudoku No 15,212 — Fiendish

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

How to solve Sudoku. Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

Stuck on KenKen, Killer or Sudoku?

Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Killer No 9667 — Deadly

7		6	3	15		8	17	
24				19			10	
	20	11			19			
9		21		20		19		
							17	
20			20	6		9		
15				11				
11		20		20		9	13	
6								

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated. **For solutions to KenKen, Sudoku & Killer see Times2 on Monday**

KenKen No 6306 — Medium

12×			1-		120×
3-	2-		1-	12+	
	1-				
1-	2÷	11+	7+		3÷
				8+	
2÷		6+			

All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Cryptic Quintagram®

Solve all five cryptic clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Cast providing idea for TV show (5)

— — — — —

2 Drink served primarily with fish (5)

— — — — —

3 Piece from revered artist held back for dealer (6)

— — — — —

4 Rule: admit one, freely (8)

— — — — —

5 So we will, I agree! (4,4)

— — — — —

A	A	A	C	D	D	E	E
E	E	E	H	H	I	I	K
L	L	M	N	O	P	R	R
R	S	T	T	T	V	W	Y

Word Watch

David Parfitt

Pokal

- a. A tall drinking cup
- b. A pattern of small loops
- c. A high-grade tea

Cunabula

- a. A Celtic king
- b. A cradle
- c. A magical incantation

Latrociny

- a. Sideways motion
- b. Needless delay
- c. Highway robbery

Limax

- a. A culmination
- b. A fruit tree genus
- c. A slug

Scrabble® Paul Gallen

This week's column will highlight a number of the new four-letter words added to the latest edition of *Collins Official Scrabble Words*. The new word list was released last month and will be used in tournaments worldwide from January 1, 2025.

With short words, focus will inevitably turn to additions that contain any of JQXZ. Here are eight new words that contain a "power" tile:

- BUJO** a bullet journal, a notebook for ideas
- DOXX** also DOX, to publish personal information about a person online
- FOLX** folks
- MPOX** a viral disease
- SEAX** an Anglo-Saxon short sword, dagger or knife
- VAXX** also VAX, vaccination
- YAJE** ayahuasca, a Brazilian plant
- ZUKE** a zucchini, the US term for a courgette

Four-letter additions can often create new hooks for existing three-letter words. For example, BOP is no longer solely capable of being hooked with the S to make BOPS. The newly updated word list has introduced the word BOPO, meaning body positivity. Here are other new hooks to watch out for:

- BAS+A** a type of Vietnamese freshwater catfish
- BRU+H** brother
- CAT+H** to insert a catheter into
- COP+I** an Asian carp
- LEW+K** a signature look
- P+ARM** Parmesan cheese
- PEN+G** of superior quality
- S+TAN** an obsessive admirer of a famous person

Regular readers will know that the V is an awkward tile. Here are some four-letter words that will help to dispose of this troublesome letter:

- AVIS** pl of AVI, an avatar in social media or online gaming
- BRUV** a friendly way of addressing a man
- FAVS** pl of FAV, a favourite

Can you find the common existing anagrams of the following new four-letter words?

- ALGO** an algorithm
- MOBO** a computer's motherboard
- NERF** to reduce the effectiveness of

Most of the remaining new four-letter words are shown on the board diagram below. Can you find the one move that scores more than 50 points using the following rack?



Collins Official Scrabble Words is the word authority used. Word positions use the grid reference plus (a)cross or (d)own.

	2L	3L	2W	3W										
	double letter square (dl)	triple letter square (tl)	double word square (dw)	triple word square (tw)										

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
A	3W			2L						R	O	N	A	2L	3W
B		2W				3L					R			2W	
C			2W				2L	2L		T			2W		
D	2L			2W			2L			I		2W		2L	
E					2W					S	2W				
F	Y	3L				3L				T				3L	
G	O		2L				2L			I		2L		2L	
H	E	A	2L				G	U	A	C		2L		2L	3W
I	E	A	R	L	I	E	R	I	E		2L		2L		
J		3L				3L				A		3L		3L	
K					2W					T		2W			
L	2L			2W						I	2L		2W		2L
M			2W							N		2L		2W	
N	A	R	I	E		3L				G		3L		2W	
O	3W									F	A	M	S	3W	3W

Letter values	
1 point:	A E I O U
	L N R S T
2 points:	D G
3 points:	B C M P
4 points:	F H V W Y
K = 5	
J X = 8	
Q Z = 10	

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Chess David Howell

Battle for the North

The Northumbria Masters has been a welcome addition to the UK tournament circuit. Over the last few years, the event has established itself as a calendar highlight for chess players in the North of England.

Among a range of sections, the Northumbria Masters boasts a strong international Open tournament, as well as round-robins specialising in creating title norm opportunities for aspiring players. This year's all-play-all sections produced two international master norms — one for James Moreby of Newcastle, and a final norm for Ondrej Svanda from the Czech Republic.

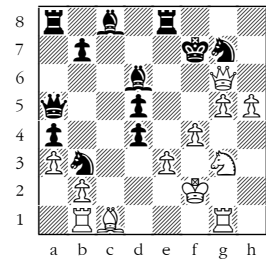
In 2024 the congress moved south from Newcastle to Darlington, finding a new home in the splendid setting of the town's Victorian Central Hall. Next year the organiser, FM Tim Wall, has ambitions to expand further, with plans including an open-air chess festival.

One of the most spectacular games of the Northumbria Masters took place between two grandmasters — Daniel Gormally of Alnwick, and Eldar Gasanov of Ukraine.

White: Daniel Gormally
Black: Eldar Gasanov
Northumbria Masters 2024
Bogo-Indian Defence

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 Bb4+ 4 Nbd2 d5 5 Qa4+ Nc6 6 a3 Be7 7 e3 0-0 8 Bd3 a5 9 Qc2 a4 10 g4

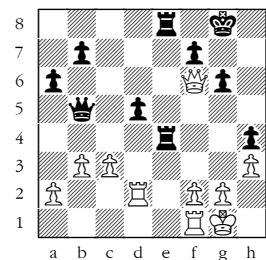
An ambitious pawn thrust reminiscent of ideas popularised by Shakhriyar Mamedyarov and Simon Williams. The move also hints at Gormally's devil-may-care frame of mind, having fallen into a checkmate trap in the previous round. 10...g6 Black reacts calmly, hoping to block the king-side. 10...Nxc4 11 Bxh7+ would have led to immediate complications. 11 Rgl Re8 12 g5 Nh5 13 Nf1 Na5 Gasanov, winner of the GM group, offers a pawn sacrifice. 14 e5? Objectively a mistake. 14 Bd2 (14 Qxa4 Bd7 15 Qc2 Nxc4 16 Bxc4 dxc4 17 Qxc4 e5! 18 Nxe5 Be6 19 Qc2 Bxg5 gives Black excellent chances) was the lesser evil. 14...Nb3 15 Rb1 e5! Obeying conventional chess wisdom, Black meets wing play with a central counter. The uncastled white king starts to feel uneasy. 16 Nxe5 Bxc5 17 f4 Consistent with White's earlier choices. The pawn storm is risky, but it is already too late to turn back. 17...Bd6 18 Ng3 Ng7 There was no need to delay; 18...Nxc3 19 hxc3 c5! was also promising. 19 h4 No retreat! White burns the boats as he goes. 19...e5 20 h5 cxd4 21 Nxf7 Going all in and showing full commitment to the attack. This knight sacrifice should not work, but it certainly asks the opponent difficult questions. 21...Qa5+ 22 Kf2 Kxf7 More accurate was 22...dxe3+ 23 Bxe3 Rxe3! when Black stylishly wins the race to the enemy king: 24 Kxe3 Bc5+ 25 Kf3 Nd4+, or 24 Nxd6 Qb6 25 Nxc8 Rxc8! 26 Qxc8+ Re8+. 23 Bxg6+ hxc6 24 Qxg6+



White gets in first. Which way should the black king go? 24...Ke7! Gasanov correctly runs away, rather than defend the hapless knight. 24...Kg8? 25 h6 allows White back into the game. 25 h6 Gormally presses forward. 25 Qxg7+ Kd8 leads nowhere. 25...Nxc1 26 Qxg7+ Kd8 27 Qxd4 Bc5 28 Qxd5+ Bd7 29 Rdl Bxe3+ 30 Kf3 Qxd5+ 31 Rxd5 Kc7 32 Rxd7+ Kxd7 33 Ne4 Black has an extra rook and bishop for a mere three pawns, yet White is miraculously still fighting. 33...Nb3 34 Nf6+ 34 Kxe3 Nd2! would allow simplifications. 34...Kd6 35 Nxe8+ Rxe8 36 Rel Nd4+? Finally letting the win slip. 36...Nd2+! 37 Kg4 Ne4 would have cemented the bishop, when 38 g6 Ke7 39 Kg5 Kf8 sees the black king take the starring role. 37 Kg4 Gormally is rewarded for his courage. Now the white pawns provide sufficient counterplay to hold the balance. 37...Re4 38 h7 Rxf4+ 39 Kh3 Not falling for 39 Kh5? Nf5! 39...Rf3+ 40 Kg4 Rf4+ 41 Kh3 Rf3+ 42 Kgg4 Rf4+ Draw agreed A fair result after a compelling clash.

Winning Move

Black to play. Abdusattorov-Nepomniachtchi, St Louis 2024. How did Black end the game in his favour?



The first correct entry drawn on Thursday wins *The Times Mindset Puzzles Book 1* and *The Sunday Times Teasers Book 2*. Two runners-up will receive a book prize. Answers on a postcard to: The Times Winning Move, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ, or email to: winningmove@thetimes.co.uk. Open to 18+, UK and ROI residents only. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's puzzle:
 1 Ba4! wins: 1...Qb7 (1...Qxa4 2 Qxc7) 2 Qxc7! Qxc7 3 Rxd7

The winner is Tracey Cann of Sidmouth, Devon. The runners-up are Russ Bevington of Thorney, Cambridgeshire, and Tony Mackintosh of London N6.

Codeword No 5314

23	15	8	4	21	7		23	15	5	25	20	21	
15		16		16				9		16		7	
23	20	9	15	9			10	20	19	11	4	7	4
15		17		14			20		2		7		4
26	9	16	14	16	3	15		16	3	3	21	7	
16		8					4		18				9
		18	7	1	1	16	11	19	11	7			
13				19		4					12		8
24	15	4	7	21			19	11	7	12	16	17	4
7		24		21			15		12		18		15
7	3	19	4	T	I	15	11		4	15	22	19	17
1		11		15				15		21			6
7	11	2	19	11	7		25	21	7	7	17	5	

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	T	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17		18	19	I	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Every letter in this crossword-style grid is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid. Proper nouns are excluded.

Stuck on Codeword? To receive four random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

times2 Crossword No 9630

1		2			3		4	5		6		7
8					9							
10					11		12					
								13		14		
					15							
16												17
					18			19				
		20										
21										22		
23								24				

Across

- 1 Subtract (6)
- 4 French-speaking province of Canada (6)
- 8 Floating platform (4)
- 9 Exceptionally famous celebrity (8)
- 10 Dishonest (9)
- 13 Classical music drama (5)
- 15 Coin of low value (5)
- 16 Number of musicians in a trio (5)

- 18 Exercise machine (9)
- 21 From corner to corner (8)
- 22 Given one's wages (4)
- 23 Dashinglly disreputable (6)
- 24 Occurring at an opportune moment (6)

Down

- 1 Mock, scoff at (6)
- 2 One who covertly switches allegiance (8)
- 3 Entice (5)
- 5 Pure (9)
- 6 Washing receptacle (4)
- 7 Membrane covering the front of the eye (6)
- 11 Rash, hasty (9)
- 12 Garden barrier (5)
- 14 Assessment of probable costs (8)
- 16 Fire-lighting material (6)
- 17 From morning until night (3-3)
- 19 Designate for a purpose (5)
- 20 Container for pet fish (4)

Solution to Crossword 9629

B	Y	D	E	S	I	G	N		A	L	G	A
A	A	H		A					E		B	
G	U	N	G	E		L	U	M	B	A	G	O
G	C	D	E	E	A	R						D
A	G	E		L	O	N	G	R	A	N	G	E
G			I	A	K	E						
E	N	G	A	G	E		G	E	O	R	G	E
	R	H	U	T								L
G	R	E	E	T	I	N	G	S		E	G	G
A	Y	O	W	H	R							R
M	E	L	A	N	G	E		A	D	A	G	E
U	A			L	R	S						C
T	O	G	O		A	L	T	E	R	E	G	O

Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Mindset by 700

1. The following, are missing lead characters, as are their answers — making them themed:

- a) ILMA'S USBAND; EBBLES'S ATHER
- b) UCKY LANT ITH OUR EAVES
- c) HAT HE AVEN UOTH
- d) 93 IMES 73

2. Two boys and five girls stand in a line for a photo. The boys refuse to stand next to each other. They try different arrangements, posing for a new photo every second, until they've tried all possible orderings. **How long does it take?**

3. John, the poet, was asked whether the city of Douglas is on a peninsula. **How did he reply?**

Literary Quiz

The Times Literary Desk

Full of Zest

Who wrote the following fruity novels?

- 1 *The Satsuma Complex*
- 2 *A Clockwork Orange*
- 3 *Tangerine*
- 4 *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*

The Listener Crossword No 4832 **Summertime** by Harribobs

Senders of the first three correct entries drawn will receive *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* or may choose from a selection of other books (see below). Send your entry with contact details completed to: Listener Crossword 4832, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, to arrive by September 19.

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			

Prize options and more at listencrossword.com

More information about Chambers books can be found at chambers.co.uk

Name.....
 Address.....
 Postcode..... Phone/email.....

In 28 clues the wordplay leads to the answer with an extra letter that is not entered in the grid. These letters spell out how, after filling the grid, solvers must change four letters, making new words. *The Chambers Dictionary* (2016) is the primary reference; one answer is an abbreviation.

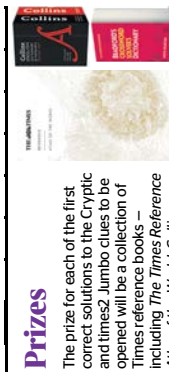
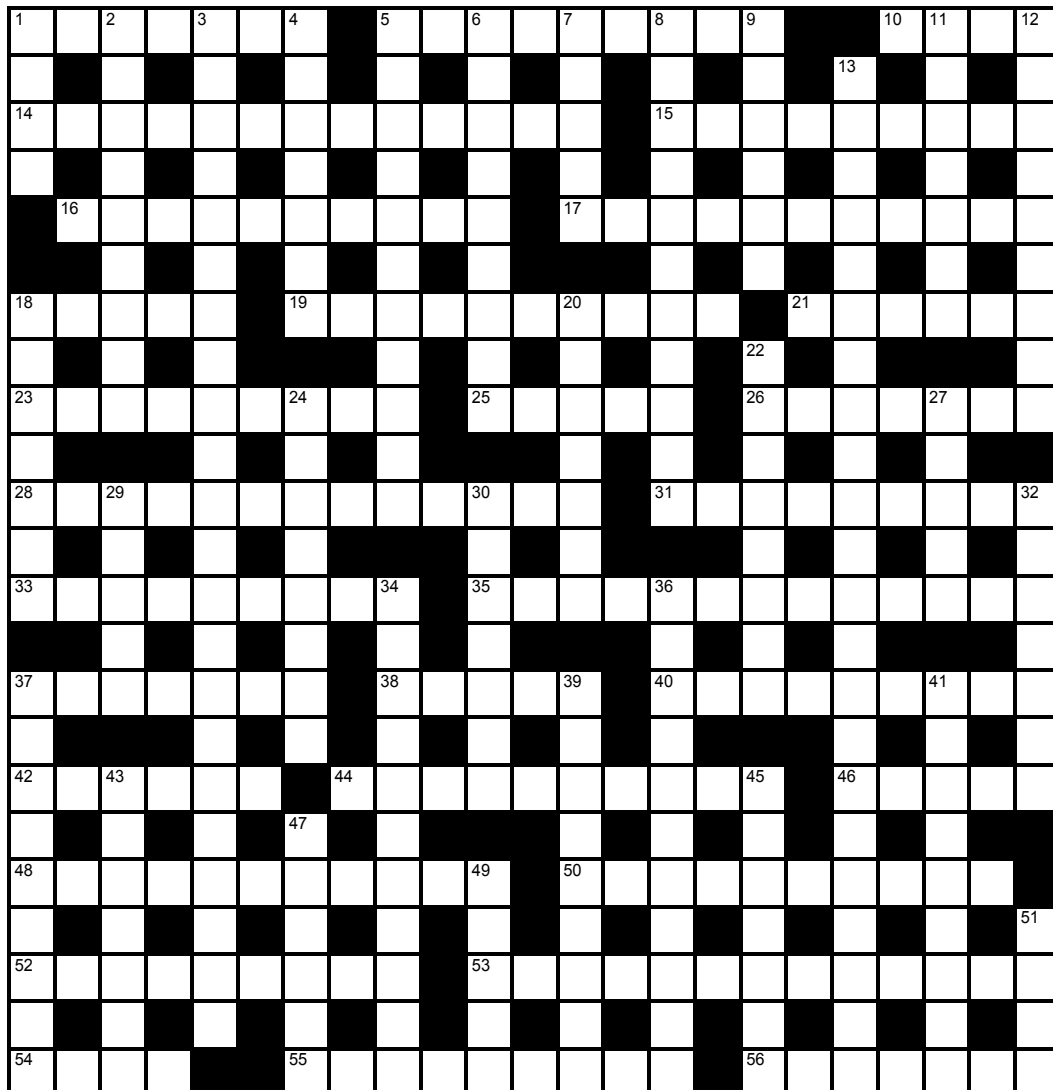
Across

- 1 Samantha has Italian restaurant in Beds. (6)
- 5 Do it quietly in company of female (6, two words)
- 10 Has entertaining work with the late queen's falconers (7)
- 12 Sketch show Arab state's revised earlier (5)
- 13 High-fliers left in Michigan perhaps, after a setback (4, two words)
- 15 Leaders in *Sun* express strong support for forgotten tax (4)
- 16 Lift for water source short mystic guards (6)
- 17 Take the same journey (4)
- 18 Winchester say abysmal failure will miss out on university (5)
- 19 Church fails to see everything but ego (4)
- 21 Tears flowing three-quarter strength (5)
- 23 Possible slogan for Action Fraud group (7)
- 25 Ireland is ultimately thankful when author tours (9, two words)
- 27 Popular local chap stands before God (4)
- 30 Violent Scots and English thugs tangling (5)
- 32 African burqa you almost ruined (6)
- 33 Whimsical rebuff Europe provided (3)
- 34 Crosses Australia amid cheers (4)
- 35 I must leave train after going over pass (6)
- 36 Rail supporters spot person crossing line (8)
- 37 Area west of pond (4)

Down

- 1 European football pundit keeps thinner (7)
- 2 Staff involved in downfall of country (7)
- 3 Singer cut enthralling church music (6)
- 4 Albanian sailors losing energy (6)
- 6 Refined dock labourer scrubbing awful black dirt (6)
- 7 Attacked book over Coetzee's plot line (8)
- 8 Soldier, American one, saved by rifle shot (8)
- 9 Out of the ordinary sore feet, exceptionally sore (6)
- 11 Most frothy daughter having been promoted, flags over time (8)
- 14 Refuse to house old lag (6)
- 20 Flight across centre of Soweto rises precipitously (6)
- 22 Trap Nessie finally, following echo location (5)
- 24 Try coming after special ball from way back (6)
- 25 In the Bible, the wicked attack head of state (5)
- 26 Compound detector takes one aback somewhat (5)
- 28 Wounded de Gaulle loses leg, broken in two parts (4)
- 29 Part rubber pipe (4)
- 30 Gets money from government bonds (4)
- 31 Smoke rising around the empty French farmhouse (4)
- 33 Iron maiden, or her more delicate partner (3)

Jumbo crossword No 1692



Prizes

The prize for each of the first correct solutions to the Cryptic and times2 Jumbo clues to be opened will be a collection of Times reference books — including *The World Collins Atlas of the World*, *Collins English Dictionary & Thesaurus*, and *Bradford's Crossword Solver's Dictionary* published by HarperCollins. Entries should be marked 'Cryptic' or 'times2' and sent to: The Times Jumbo Crossword 1692, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ; or emailed to jumbo@thetimes.co.uk, with 'Cryptic 1692' or 'times2 1692' in the subject line, to arrive by September 19. Open to 18+, UK & ROI residents only. The winners and the solutions will be published on September 21.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

..... Postcode.....

Phone number.....

Across

- 1 Peaceful (7)
- 5 Retailer of eg apples (9)
- 10 Genuine, authentic (4)
- 14 Time over which a person can concentrate (9,4)
- 15 Hero of Sir Walter Scott (9)
- 16 Driving a vehicle (2,3,5)
- 17 Create (ballet movements) (11)
- 18 Close to the centre (5)
- 19 Produce a book in another's name (10)
- 21 Bantu language (6)
- 23 Type of pasta (9)
- 25 Wales in Welsh (5)
- 26 Waiting in ambush (7)
- 28 Ceremonial county (7,6)
- 31 Grizzly perhaps (5,4)
- 33 Lacking flavour (9)
- 35 Classifying as ineligible (13)
- 37 Artist's mixing board (7)
- 38 Being horizontal (5)
- 40 Divide into two branches (9)
- 42 US upper assembly (6)

- 44 Fatal epidemic disease (10)

- 46 Domineering (5)
- 48 Radioactive element (11)
- 50 Heraldic lily (5-2-3)
- 52 Free from injury (9)
- 53 Sweets and chocolates (13)
- 54 German industrial region (4)
- 55 Engaged to be married (9)
- 56 Fast cat (7)

Down

- 1 Reach the highest point (4)
- 2 State of stupor and immobility (9)
- 3 London terminus (9,6,7)
- 4 Gossipy conversation (7)
- 5 The source and origin (*Latin*) (4,2,5)
- 6 Not wise or expedient (9)
- 7 Pick-me-up (5)
- 8 Principle born of experience (4,2,5)
- 9 Discordant noise (6)
- 11 Sturgeon eggs (7)
- 12 Romantic number (5,4)
- 13 STV in full (6,12,4)

- 18 Immediate understanding (7)
- 20 Places on bail (7)
- 22 Musical notation symbol (4,4)
- 24 Russian novelist and dramatist (8)
- 27 Former tribe of eastern England (5)
- 29 Artist's stand (5)
- 30 Artist favouring the illogical and absurd (7)
- 32 Dishonesty (7)
- 34 Not needing to be explained (4-7)
- 36 Often untrue story that circulates (5,6)
- 37 Rear (9)
- 39 Brightly-coloured songbird (9)
- 41 Shunning alcohol (9)
- 43 Ancient Assyrian capital (7)
- 45 Not regular in movement (7)
- 47 Raising agent in baking (6)
- 49 Assertively masculine (5)
- 51 Traditional story (4)

Bridge Andrew Robson

East-West at Table One were pleased with their defence on this amusing deal from a teams match, kindly sent in by reader Alan Brown from Surrey. However, their smiles evaporated when they scored up with teammates ...

Dealer South Neither Vul

♠ 8 6 5 3
♥ 6 5 4
♦ 6
♣ Q 10 9 7 3

♠ - ♠ Q 9 7
♥ 2 ♥ A J 10 7
♦ J 9 7 5 4 3 ♦ A Q 10 8 2
♣ A J 6 5 4 2 ♣ 8

♠ A K J 10 4 2
♥ K Q 9 8 3
♦ K
♣ K

Table One

S	W	N	E
2♠(1)	Pass	2♦(2)	Pass(3)
2♠	Pass	4♠(4)	end

- (1) 23 or more points, or (as here) an upgrade for shape.
- (2) Negative or waiting, the normal response.
- (3) Anyone for a lead-directing double?
- (4) Weaker than 3♠ (the 2♠ rebid is forcing to game, so fast arrival applies — the quicker you get to game, the weaker you are).

Leading a singleton rather loses its lustre when you have no trumps, so West led a diamond. East won the ace (felling declarer's bare king) and switched to his singleton club.

West beat declarer's king with the ace and, knowing (unlike his partner) that declarer was also out of clubs, switched to his heart (for passive reasons, not for a ruff). East carefully inserted the ten, as opposed to the third-hand-high ace that would have let the game make.

Declarer won the king of hearts and cashed the ace of spades, West discarding. Needing to reach dummy to take the marked spade finesse, declarer tried the nine of hearts. However, East could win the jack and cash the ace. Although declarer could ruff East's fourth heart in dummy and pick up East's spades, that was one down. Tight defence.

Things were very different at Table Two ...

Table Two

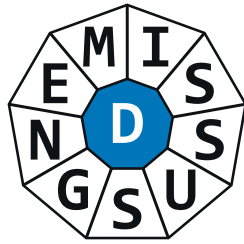
S	W	N	E
1♠	2NT(1)	3♠(2)	5♦
5♥	6♦(3)	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Redbl(4)
end			

- (1) Unusual, showing (at least) five-five in the minors.
- (2) Light but N-S were playing Five-card Majors so this was a level-of-the-fit bid.
- (3) "Six-six, stay in the mix."
- (4) East is HUGE.

Declarer (East) ruffed South's ace of spades lead in dummy and led a diamond to the ace, felling the king. He then turned to clubs, crossing to the ace and ruffing a club (exposing the 5-1 split). He cashed the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart, ruffed a third club, ruffed a heart, ruffed a fourth club, ruffed a heart, ruffed a fifth club, ruffed a spade and triumphantly cashed the sixth club. That was all 13 tricks made and a whop-ning +1,580 to East-West.

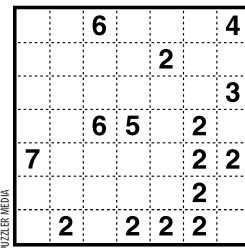
andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Polygon Roger Phillips



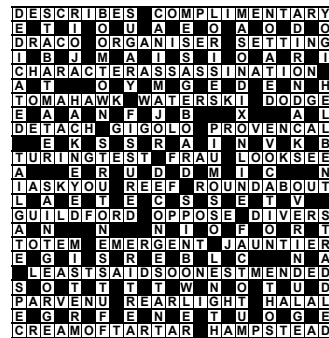
Using the given letters no more than once, make as many words as possible of four or more letters, always including the central letter. Capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives are disallowed.
How you rate: 18 words average; 24, good; 31, very good; 38, excellent.

Cell Blocks 5197



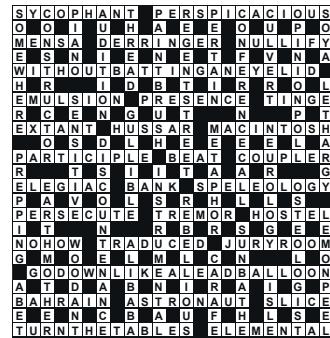
Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

Bank holiday Cryptic Jumbo No 1690



The winner is Michael Dodd of Gloucester

Bank holiday times2 Jumbo No 1690



The winner is Clive Spate of Bridlington, East Yorkshire

Train Tracks returns next week

Solutions

Solution to last week's Samurai Sudoku

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

Our five-grid Sudoku will test your powers of logic and deduction.

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length. The interlocking nature of the grid gives you more clues — and more complexity.

Remember — don't try to solve each Sudoku grid in turn; the puzzle has to be tackled as a whole.

Stuck? Call 0901 293 6263 to receive four clues for today's Samurai Sudoku. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm)

Solutions

Friday's solutions

KenKen No 6305

5	2	4	3	6	1
3	1	6	4	5	2
1	5	3	6	2	4
2	4	1	5	3	6
6	3	2	1	4	5
4	6	5	2	1	3

Sudoku No 15,207

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

Sudoku No 15,208

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

Sudoku No 15,209

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

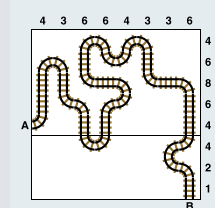
Killer No 9664

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

Killer No 9665

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

Train Tracks No 2341



Codeword No 5313

ALIGHT	FLAWED
VIDE	U
OVERLAP	MUSIC
CHAC	UPH
ALLOY	COYOTE
D	OK
OCTANE	USABLE
H	Q
ZIRCON	USURP
AC	U
JOKER	SOLUBLE
A	E
RAIN	CHORUS

S	E	T	B	Y	R	A			M	A	N	
A	L	O	E	T	I	C	A	G	A	P	A	E
L	A	N	D	S	M	A	L	A	D	O	R	N
O	E	G	I	S	U	I	L	A	D	D	I	O
P	I	U	M	O	S	C	O	M	E	S	A	L
T	S	E	F	A	R	E	W	T	N	K	L	O
L	L	L	U	S	E	P						
R	E	E	C	T	P	I	D	E	A	N	S	Y
E	S	T	O	P	E	A	U	D	E	N	I	L
S	C	R	U	B	O	T	J	A	M	Y	L	O
I	R	A	T	E	P	L	E	X	U	R	E	S
A	O	R	T	A	L	E	S	E	R	I	N	E
S	W	E	S	H	E	A	T	H	E	B	E	S

The Listener 4829 Bigfoot by Dysart

The Sphinx in the top row was replaced by "man", the answer to the riddle she posed outside Thebes. Oedipus and his mother Jocasta alternated in an elliptical ring. His father Laius was jumbled in row 4; Tiresias knew the answers to Oedipus's questions but refused to answer. Oedipus blinded himself, symbolised by removing "eye" in 28ac. More details at listenercrossword.com. The winners are Donald MacLeod of Blairgowrie, Perthshire; Ed and Liz Scovell of Faceby, North Yorkshire; Graham O'Neill of Purley, Greater London.

T	R	O	U	S	S	E	A	U	P	I	T	C	H	B	L	A	C	K				
G	I	C	T	D	N	R	O	O	O	R												
E	A	R	A	C	H	E	I	N	S	P	E	C	T	O	R	S	P	E	C	S		
T	E	U	L	C	H	Y	T	T	T	V	I											
U	N	D	E	R	C	L	O	T	H	E	S	M	E	D	I	T	A	T	I	O	N	
P	R	A	A	T	R	C	N	C	U													
A	U	T	H	E	N	T	I	C	A	T	I	O	N	H	U	N	D	R	E	D	S	
N	E	N	E	O	H	R	P	L	F													
D	I	R	E	C	T	I	N	V	E	S	T	M	E	N	T	O	U	G	H	T		
G	M	E	R	F	U	A	U	U	O	I												
O	V	A	L	D	E	T	E	C	T	O	R	S	T	R	E	N	O	U	S			
G	T	H	R	I	E	H	I	D	S													
S	H	A	R	E	W	A	R	E	T	O	R	T	O	I	S	E	Z	E	A	L		
T	N	R	B	N	A	O	T	R	S	I												
R	O	T	O	R	I	N	C	I	N	E	R	A	T	E	S	E	X	T	E	T		
I	A	L	E	T	E	E	D	C	E	E												
P	L	A	I	F	A	I	R	B	U	M	P	E	R	T	O	B	U	M	P	E	R	
L	V	O	T	R	M	R	M	P	A													
I	C	E	B	R	E	A	K	E	R	M	I	D	D	L	E	W	E	I	G	H	T	
N	N	M	T	G	R	M	E	S	R	E	U											
G	I	G	L	I	N	E	L	E	G	A	N	T										
E	N	O	N	A	N	E	I	T	U	E												
P	R	O	G	E	N	I	T	O	R	D	I	R	T	C	H	E	A	P				

Solution to Cryptic Jumbo 1689

The winner is James Spratley of Fleet, Hampshire

C	A	T	H	A	R	S	I	S	R	A	C	E	C	O	U	R	S	E			
H	A	H	P	H	A	E	H	O	N	P											
E	V	I	D	E	N	T	A	D	U	L	A	T	I	O	N	S	H	A	D	E	
N	R	R	I	K	T	L	S	S	U	G	L										
C	O	N	F	E	C	T	I	O	N	E	R	D	E	S	P	I	C	A	B	L	E
E	A	U	R	D	L	I	G	O	V												
F	L	A	T	B	E	D	S	C	A	N	N	E	R	T	R	U	E	B	L	U	E
O	U	O	E	H	E	V	H	A	S	N											
R	O	T	G	U	T	B	A	S	S	O	O	N	I	S	T	S	W	I	S	S	
T	O	T	S	T	U	N	O	F	N	E											
H	E	M	P	S	E	N	T	I	E	N	T	T	O	R	T	U	R	O	U	S	
A	A	P	E	N	L	E	I	L	C												
D	E	T	O	N	A	T	O	R	D	A	Y	D	R	E	A	M	G	U	R	U	
E	O	T	U	B	U	L	L	P	L	N											
F	E	N	C	E	A	P	O	C	R	Y	P	H	A	L	A	L	K	A	L	I	
E	M	G	X	I	R	N	S	A	T	N											
A	C	H	I	E	V	E	R	I	N	T	E	R	D	E	P	E	N	D	E	N	T
T	U	R	N	C	G	C	A	T	E												
I	N	S	T	I	G	A	T	O	R	K	I	N	D	E	R	G	A	R	T	E	N
S	T	D	R	U	H	P	E	R	T	O	D										
T	U	L	S	I	M	P	L	O	S	I	O	N	I	M	I	T	A	T	E		
E	E	A	O	M	C	S	N	O	D												
P	R	O	M	I	N	E	N	C	E												
E	M	E	R	G	E	N	C	Y													

Solution to times2 Jumbo 1689

The winner is Judith Greet of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey

Cell Blocks 5196

				5	2
				5	
5		6			
2			6		
				2	
6			2		4
		2			4

Suko 4215

	9	7	3
6	30	8	19
	8		1
20		18	
2	4		5

Mindset

- RED (Wilma's husband; Pebbles's father = FRED)
- LOVER (Lucky plant with four leaves = CLOVER)
- EVERMORE (What the raven quoth = EVERMORE)
- 1989 (193 times 373 = 71989). All answers are the titles of Taylor Swift albums.

- One hour. The girls can stand in 5! = 120 orders, and for each of those ways the boys can stand in 15x2 = 30 places. 120x30 = 3600 seconds.
- "No, Man is an island." — John Donne.

Word Watch

- Pokal** (a) A tall drinking cup (*Collins*)
Canabula (b) A cradle (*Chambers*)
Latrociny (c) Highway robbery (*OED*)
Limax (c) A slug (*Collins*).

Polygon

- arvo, aver, avert, fave, favor, fovea, ovate, over, **overstaff**, overt, rave, rove, save, saver, savor, servo, starve, stove, trove, vase, vast, verso, verst, vert, vest, veta, veto, vote, voter.

Scrabble

- GOAL (or GAOL), BOOM, FERN; GUACAMOLE (H7a) — 51 points.

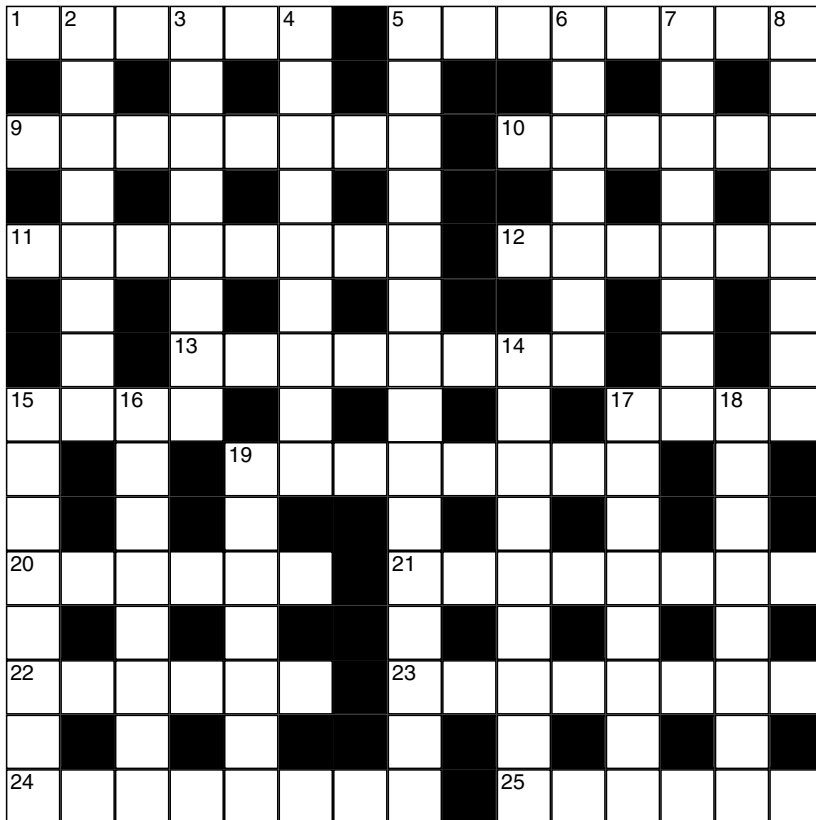
Literary quiz

- Bob Mortimer
- Anthony Burgess
- Christine Mangan
- Jeanette Winterson.

Cryptic Quintagram

- Pitch
- Shake
- Trader
- Dominate
- Very well.

Times Crossword No 29,016



Across

- 1 Something pub may serve fraud investigator (6)
- 5 Humbug sweets (8)
- 9 Enterprise perhaps plays a leading role with it (8)
- 10 Visibly upset, losing face in rebuke (6)
- 11 What you might see in a drill case, not all at once (3,2,3)
- 12 Comedy's opening with deity one's seen in Greek play (6)
- 13 Making clothing line is irritating (8)
- 15 Boss working hard to clear evidence of debts (4)
- 17 Love foreign bread you reportedly put away (4)
- 19 A theologian welcomes lead Anglicans in Lent (8)
- 20 One drug in prison in time for chilling? (3,3)
- 21 Figure hosting company knocked back vermouth — it's addictive stuff (8)

- 22 Country wanting Yankee in charge, showing a certain inclination (6)
- 23 Steak sandwiches mostly capital for one in the orchestra (8)
- 24 Holder of a light fixture by area in theatre (8)
- 25 Consider fixing frame of lattice repaired at last? (6)

Down

- 2 Spooner's heavy bird of prey in kerfuffle (8)
- 3 Lacklustre guy entering bank (8)
- 4 Settled soon astride horse of French revolutionary (9)
- 5 Revenue for government head opposed to postponing a vote (7,5,3)
- 6 Hold huge bra tight (4,3)
- 7 One doing rough physical work, or fencer at work (8)
- 8 Big stories of bands holding record up (8)
- 14 Accessory for man reluctant to get hot drink at first (9)
- 15 Funny sitcom about lives in an ancient school (8)
- 16 Can't rude jockeys perform with some restraint? (8)
- 17 Unpackaged beds and one item of furniture that can be adjusted (8)
- 18 Nerd can do wrong, with daughter going great guns (8)
- 19 Agony aunt periodically has outburst about paper (7)

Yesterday's solution 29,015

