09.01.25

Sudoku Mild No 15,528

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

Fiendish No 15,529

6		0	0		8		
D		9	2				
	3			9		5	
2		4	3			9	
1		2		3		6	-
8		1	9			7	
	4			6		1	
5		7	4				VIU
					7		O DIIZZIED ME

Super fiendish No 15,530

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

Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? 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).

THE SECTIMES

The Times Quick Cryptic No 2881 by Breadman



Across

- 1 Company ordered to keep extremely slow breed of sheep (8)
- Goddess lives twice (4)
 Remove dirt from lance frantically (5)
- 9 White insect hidden in foliage Tim retrieved from the rear (7)
- 11 Aged heads of organisation leave dutifully (3)
- 12 Heather tracks singular, stern type of footwear (9)
- 13 Complete set of religious books found in Ireland (6)
- 15 Line of punctuation initially helps you write about Henry (6)
- 18 The grime developed around a secluded abode (9)
- 19 Quietly welcome Greek character (3)
- 20 Mum and Georgia brought in stray horse of renown (7)
- 21 Pleased with English open space in woodland (5)
- 22 Charlie leaves a preliminary exam in a frenzy (4)
- 23 Tree unknown on northeastern island (8)

Down

1

Violent storm in progress splitting bike (7)

MindGames

- 2 Duke at the bottom of quaint British river (5)
- 3 Maybe activity in the main secure: daughter browsing the Net (11)
- 4 The French on journey behave uncontrollably (3,3)
- 6 Animated chap starts to notice inner strength eating this veg? (7)
- 7 Cut small tree (5)
- 10 Public school blue regularly fit for sport (5,6)
- 14 Wreck games lesson after teacher finally stops commotion (7)
- 16 Artless character spoilt Evita in New York (7)
- 17 Comic actor Stan's wreath of honour (6)
- 18 Army beginning to approach plant (5)
- 19 Man on board catches right shellfish (5)

Suko No 4321



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

Train Tracks No 2447



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.

Word watch David Parfitt

Vang

- a A rope attached to a
- ship's boom
- **b** Excellent, cool **c** A soldier at the front of a unit

Acetabulum

a A cup to hold vinegar **b** A highly flammable

gas

c An enclosure for whales or dolphins

Periapt

a An amulet
b An itinerant teacher
c The part of a fruit enclosing the seeds

THE **CALLENTIMES**

MindGames

Tetonor Tricky No 534

100	26	44	30
42	81	29	69
23	21	84	43
20	80	22	96
			·
1 2 3 3	6	16 21	

When complete, the strip below the grid can be split into eight pairs of numbers. Adding the numbers in a pair gives one of the 16 numbers in the grid. Multiplying them gives a different number in the grid. For example, a 4 and 6 in the strip could be paired to make 10 (4+6) and 24 (4x6) in the grid. Enter each sum below the corresponding number in the grid. The blanks in the strip must be deduced, bearing in mind the numbers are listed in ascending order.

The next Tetonor puzzle will appear on Tuesday

Codeword No 5420



Every letter in this crossword-style grid is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. Yesterday's solution, right

Cluelines Stuck on Codeword? To receive 4 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).



Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

Winning Move



Black to play. This position is from Beerdsen-Esipenko, Titled Tuesday, chess.com 2024.

This is a slightly strange position. White is a piece down but clearly has compensation because of the passed pawn on b7 and vulnerable black king. However, although there aren't any immediate threats, it is very difficult for Black to untangle. Perhaps frustrated, Black played 1... Qc4. How did White reply?

THE **TIMES**

times2 Crossword No 9736

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			

Across

- 1 Undertake an activity without serious interest (6)
- 4 Use mouthwash to cleanse the throat (6)
- 9 Eminent musician (7)
- 10 Group of fish (5)
- 11 Nude (5)
- 13 Feel uncomfortably hot (7)
- 14 Negative point (3)

Solution to Crossword 9735



- 15 Sphere or cube, eg (5)
- 16 Ingested (3)
- 17 Move downwards (7)
- 19 Large parrot (5)
- 21 Unit of gold purity (5)
- 22 Bare-chested (7)
- 24 One's impact on future generations (6)
- 25 Organic catalyst (6)

Down

- 1 Infernal creature (5)
- 2 Act of forced entry (5-2)
- 3 Illuminated (3)
- 5 Dutch capital city (9)
- 6 Obsolete English coin (5)
- 7 Expand, magnify (7)
- 8 Combine into one unit (11)
- 12 Suffering from indigestion (9)
- 14 Supplement to a will (7)
- 16 Target sport (7)
- 18 Gesture of indifference (5)
- 20 Needless use (5)
- 23 Sewing implement (3)

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).

MindGames

THE **TIMES**

MindGames



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. Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

Kakuro No 3919



Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

Quintagram®

Solve all five **cryptic** clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Asian match in commentary? (4)

2 Smart police operation (5)

_ _ _ _ _

_ _ _

3 Run, jumping over nine fences (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

- - - - - - -

4 Dark horse circling vehicle (7)

5 Expert professional with political power in shabby trench coat (10)

ę				—				
	Α	Α	Α	А	В	С	С	С
	Е	Ε	Е	G	G	н	н	Ι
	Ι	М	Ν	Ν	Ν	0	0	R
	R	R	S	Т	Т	Т	Т	v

THE **TIMES**

MindGames

Brain Trainer

Polygon

easy 9	+7	x 2	÷4	SQUARE IT	+ 6	70% OF IT	+ 13	50% OF IT	+ 16	ANSWER	
MEDIUM 105	+ 41	x 2	- 66	1/2 OF IT	x 3	+ 56	60% OF IT	+ 75	x 2	ANSWER	
HARDER 112	X 6	75% OF IT	7/ ₉ OF IT	x 6	+ 782	+ 1/2 OF IT	- 558	2/ ₃ OF IT	- 985	ANSWER	

Cell Blocks No 5303

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.

Set Square No 3922

I R A H G T P E

From these letters, make words of **four** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives. **How you rate** 16 words, average; 22, good; 28, very good; 34, excellent

Yesterday's answers

alky, aloo, balk, balky, bloop, bloopy, bolo, kola, lobo, look, loop, loopy, obol, opal, paly, play, **playbook**, plook, ploy, polka, polo, poly, pool, yolk

Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Killer Gentle No 9878

0	140		1					140
8	16		14	3	17			10
1	4	11			16		17	
L			L	<u>ii</u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u> i
14	3		7	1		7		9
:		16	• <u>•</u> •••••	27	1		7	
<u>.</u>		<u> </u>						
12		1		1	4	17		
5	12	16		21			15	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Ĭ								
					<u> </u>			
					10	12		
00	<u></u>	<u> </u>				4		
22		8				4		17
			1					
5			5		18			
	.i i	<u>ilt</u>	<u>.</u>	<u>.</u>	<u>ili</u>			i i

Killer Tough No 9879

As with standard Sudoku, 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.

Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? 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).

THE **CALLER** TIMES

Times Crossword 29,122

-										
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			

ACROSS

- 1 Order check on empty surgery (6)
- 4 Extremely clever, my boss I owe him (8)
- **10** Eventful game for the most part, with English heading for defeat (9)
- 11 Move back to accommodate old novelist (5)
- 12 Contraction initially impacting German debt adversely (11)
- 14 Close relation lives on benefits in the end (3)
- **15** Reporter's in contact with source on the way from France (2,5)
- 17 Nation somehow "discontented", PM concludes (6)
- **19** Republican party winning everything in race (6)
- **21** Millions in favour of trade union backing case for election (7)
- 23 Character seen in first part of book? (3)
- 24 Resolve differences: exonerate sole successor in hearing (5,3,3)
- **26** African native being ironic, you say? I disagree (5)
- **27** Dish his wife tries out (5,4)
- **29** Underworld boss losing millions in stock exchange crash perhaps (8)
- **30** Obsequious southern host entertaining maiden (6)

DOWN

- 1 Judges thus arresting conservative thinker (8)
- 2 Husband trapped by waters beginning to rise is cut off (5)
- 3 Wingless Madagascan creature — it can't fly (3)
- 5 Correct groom once again (7)
- 6 Sensible review of time on death row? (4-2-5)
- 7 Last of atheist philosopher's articles for union (9)
- 8 Turn down official employment (6)
- **9** Setting for *Oedipus Rex* film announced (6)
- 13 Two kisses signifying a betrayal? (6-5)
- **16** Facts about island's earliest broadcast (9)
- 18 A hothead, one sadly falling abroad (8)
- **20** Pressure on television channel to be in charge (7)
- **21** Boozy capacity of female briefly irritating (6)
- 22 Panic-stricken broadcast drops middle section (6)
- 25 Make modifications to 'arness (5)
- **28** Fringe uninspiring? On the contrary (3)

Yesterday's solution 29,121

Check today's answers by ringing 0905 757 0141 by midnight. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke 0333 202 3390.

MindGames

THE **CONTINES**

Solutions

Quick Cryptic 2880

IMPROMPTU BUS R A A Ν Н R н G ABINETMAKER C N R A AGENDA COYOTE E ESSIN DR GDOW Ν E DΚ R Y 0 E ENGROS SED ROW

Sudoku 15,525

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

Sudoku 15,526

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

Sudoku 15,527

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

Killer 9876

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

Killer 9877

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

Codeword 5419

1 2 8 9 3 6 3 7 8 9 829 8 1 6 9 2 4 5 1 8 5 9 9 7 2 1 6 599186 1 3 9 7 9 8 4 7 9 5 5 9 2 8 9 7 93 98657 9613 97821 6 2 1 98 731

Kakuro 3918

Train Tracks 2446

Lexica 7887

s

т R U

R

s

В

7	+	4	×	6	
+		+		-	
8	+	2	-	1	
×		+		×	
3	×	9	+	5	

5

6

3

4

Set Square 3921

KenKen 6411

^{30×} 2340	30× 2	5	2	1	3	4
5 1 6	5	> 1	3>	2	> [4]	5
^{3÷} 1 2 3 4	3÷ 1	2	^ 	5	1	3
3 4 2 3	3	<u> </u>	-			
465	⁴ 4	4	1	> 3	5 >	2
¹¹⁺ 5 1 2	¹¹⁺ 6	> 3	5>	4	< 2	1.

	Lex	ica	788	88		
5	G	L	А	R	Е	
‡ 4		0		А		
5	М	U	М	В	L	
1		D		В		
~				T	N	Γ

USEFU

Today's solutions

Word watch

Qb6 mate

Vang (a) A rope attached to a ship's boom (*Collins*) Acetabulum (a) A cup to hold vinegar (*OED*) **Periapt** (a) An amulet (*OED*)

Chess – Winning Move 1 ... Qc4 is a blunder as protection of the a7-square is removed. White wins with 2 Qa7+! Kxa7 3 b8Q+ Ka6 4

Cell Blocks 5302

3

2

6

2 6 5

6

4 2

4 2

Futoshiki 4959

5

2

Cryptic Quintagram 1 Thai 2 Sting 3 Govern 4 Macabre 5 Technocrat

Suko 4321 Brain Trainer Easv 47 Medium 624 Harder 1,777

А

н

5 4 23 20 8 3 30 20 1 9 7 2 6

MindGames

Samurai medium

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.

	Λ				7		5						Q			Λ		7		
	4	•			1	_	5					•	0			4		/	•	•
	2	6			4	8						6							2	9
				9				2								9	6			1
				1									4			3			6	
6			4	7	9		1					9	3					1	7	
_	7			6	3		9	5				5	-		2	1		_	4	
				8							2			3						
	9	8		-	6	5					6							4		
7	-	-	5		-	_					-		2				1	-	5	
			-			-			-	Б			6	1			-		-	
							~			0				1						
							6			3			1							
						7	9			2										
	5		1				4										4			2
		1							1					8	9			7	1	
						6			5							5				
	8			1	7			2				9	6		3	4			7	
	7	2					9	3					5		7	2	8			4
	3			5			8									1				
			2	7								5				7				
6	1							4						7	4			1	5	
		4		6			7						9		5				6	

Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.

THE TIMES

MindGames Thursday January 9 2025 Brain boost puzzles

Sudoku difficult

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

Every letter in the

Each letter of the

alphabet appears in

until all 26 letters of

nouns are excluded.

10

6

15 19

Killer deadly

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.

14

23

10 6

13

Suko

Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

Yesterday's solutions

SAMURAI

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

TRAIN TRACKS

FUTOSHIKI

4 >	3	2 >	1	5
1	5	3	4>	2
3	4 <	5	2	1
5	2	1	3	4
2	1	4	5	× 3

SUDOKU

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

KILLER

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

CODEWORD

