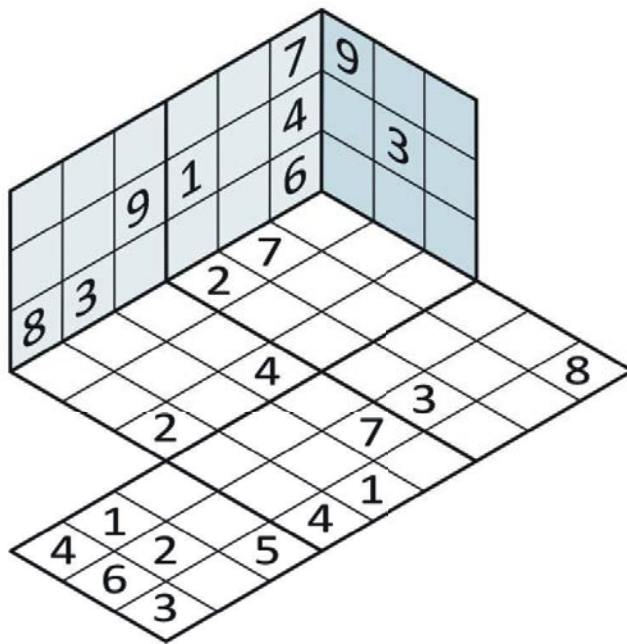


Samurai Sudoku No 946 — Medium

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

Tredoku
No 1860 —
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 293 — Medium
Ian Simpson & Richard Heald

		*		*
*				
*			*	*
		*		
	*		*	

- CIRCUS
- COMMA
- CORNER
- FRAME
- MOVEMENT
- STREET
- TRACTS

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 15,320 — Fiendish

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

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 9739 — Deadly

12	20		19				34	
	20			8				
		19		15		19	15	
23								
		20			11			16
	13			28		8		
	23						12	
20			21			20		
								9

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 6342 — Medium

1-	5+	4-		10×	2÷
		24×			
20×			2÷	1-	
2-		1		5-	20×
1-	2÷	1-			
		11+			

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 Blue tale needing no introduction (4)

— — — —
2 1 Liz has support (5)

— — — — —
3 1 Robert, Conservative in unusual jerkin (7)

— — — — — — —
4 1 Helen, surprisingly wealthy (7)

— — — — — — — —
5 1 Tom had net tangled on boat (9)

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

Word Watch

David Parfitt

Carduus

- a. The staff of Hermes
- b. A difficult task
- c. A thistle

Emptings

- a. Yeast
- b. Omens
- c. Miscellaneous items

Keech

- a. A lump of fat
- b. A cheese flan
- c. A two-masted ship

Cymotrichous

- a. Roughly disc-shaped
- b. Wavy-haired
- c. Welsh-speaking

Scrabble® Paul Gallen

There has been speculation in recent months that the five-time English language world champion Nigel Richards has been learning the Spanish Scrabble tournament word list with a view to competing in Spanish language events. These rumours were proved correct when the New Zealander officially entered the 2024 Spanish World Scrabble Championship, which will be held from November 11 to 16 in Granada, Spain.

This will not be the first time that Richards has competed in a non-English language Scrabble world championship. Richards won the classic version of the French World Scrabble Championship in 2015 and 2018. His 2015 success in particular received widespread publicity after he stated that he could not speak French and that he had only spent nine weeks studying the French dictionary.

Richards has also won multiple French language duplicate titles (in which all competitors are faced with the same board and rack). Richards will be competing in the classic and duplicate versions of the Spanish game next month. It is likely that Richards will be taking the championship very seriously, and it would not be surprising if he was victorious in at least one category.

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

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

A	3W			2L			3W			2L			3W	
B		2W		3L	S		3L			2W				
C			2W		U	2L			2W					
D	2L		2W		P			2W		2L				
E			T	A	Q	U	E	R	I	A	2W			
F		3L				3L	E		H	O	N	D	A	
G						2L	M				2L			
H	T	A	P	A	D	E	R	O						3W
I		2L				2L				2L				
J		3L				3L				3L				
K						2W				2W				
L	2L			2W				2L			2W		2L	
M			2W			2L				2L			2W	
N		2W				3L				3L			2W	
O	3W			2L			3W			2L			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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This week's puzzles are based on Spanish words that feature in the English language version of Scrabble.

Can you find the seven-letter words from the racks below?

- 1 B E L O O R S
- 2 A C E E R V Z
- 3 C C E E H I V
- 4 B E H M O R S
- 5 B E L O P S U
- 6 A A G I N R S

Your opponent has started with a bonus word, as shown on the board extract below. Can you find the eight-letter response using the following rack?

A C E G H M O

C		2W				2L		2L	
D	2L			2W				2L	
E				2W					
F									
G		3L			3L				
H	3W	E	S	P	A	N	O	L	
I		2L				2L		2L	
J		3L				3L			
K					2W				
L	2L			2W				2L	
M			2W					2L	
N		2W					3L		

Finally, can you find the eight-letter word that is playable on the main board below using the following rack?

A D E O O R R

Chess David Howell

Slaying the Dragon

Magnus Carlsen's decision not to contest the classical World Championship in 2023 was not the first time a reigning champion has abdicated the title.

Nowadays, the chess world hardly feels the difference. Carlsen still plays in all the top events and is a very active world number one. 50 years ago, however, when Bobby Fischer quit after refusing to compete against the Soviet challenger, Anatoly Karpov, it felt far more cataclysmic. Fischer resigned the title after FIDE declined to agree to his demands. He then retreated into the shadows for the next two decades.

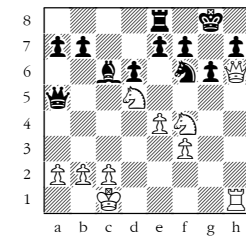
The Candidates Final in Moscow (September to November 1974) between Viktor Korchnoi, 43, and Anatoly Karpov, 23, thus turned out to be the de facto world championship. Karpov gained the upper hand in the match due to a brilliant win in Game 2, where Korchnoi's favourite counter-attacking defence to 1 e4, the Sicilian Dragon, was put to the sword thanks to deep opening preparation by Karpov and his team of seconds.

Among the grandmasters assigned to assist Karpov for the match was Mikhail Tal. It was Tal's improvement in a sharp variation of the Yugoslav Attack — analysed a couple of years previously in a Russian chess magazine — that proved decisive.

White: Anatoly Karpov
 Black: Viktor Korchnoi
 Candidates Final, Moscow 1974
 Sicilian Dragon

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Ne3 g6 6 Be3 Bg7 7 f3 Nc6 8 Qd2 0-0 9 Bc4 Bd7 10 h4 Rc8 11 Bb3 Ne5 12 0-0-0 Nc4 13 Bxc4 Rxc4 14 h5 Nxb5 Just as predicted, Korchnoi takes the bait. Korchnoi was renowned for accepting pawn sacrifices and trusting in his defensive skills. 15 g4 Nf6 16 Nde2! The idea that changed the face of Sicilian Dragon theory. This calm retreat supports the other knight on c3, ensuring Black's dangerous exchange sacrifice on that square is utterly defanged. White's full attention can now be focused on the kingside. 16...Qa5 Later, it was discovered that 16...Re8, planning 17 Bh6 (17 e5 Nxc4! 18 fxc4 Bxc4 leads to wild complications) 17...Bh8 is Black's best course of action. The preservation of the dark-squared bishop is central to Sicilian Dragon strategy. 17 Bh6 Bxb6 18 Qxh6 Rfe8 19 Rd3! Tal's key suggestion. By protecting c3 again, White frees up the e2-knight to take part in the kingside attack. Until this point, both players had blitzed out their moves. Now Korchnoi thought for 35 minutes. 19...R4c5? This allows a series of powerful attacking blows. 19...Be6 was the lesser evil: 20 g5 Nh5 21 Nf4 Qe5 22 Nxb5 g5 23 Rxb5 Qg7 when Black escapes into an inferior but playable endgame. 20 g5! Undermining the black knight on f6 becomes a consistent theme over the next few moves. 20...Rxc5 21 Rd5! Cutting the board in half.

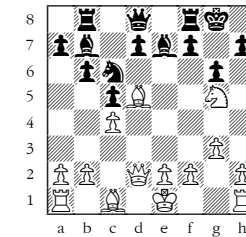
21...Rxd5 22 Nxd5 Re8 If 22...Qd8 23 Nxf6+ exf6 24 Nf4 Black will not survive long. 23 Nef4 Bc6



White's pieces are all perfectly poised for the final attack. How did Karpov end all resistance? 24 e5! This brilliant move sidelines the black queen and sets up a killer tactic. 24...Bxd5 The point behind White's last move can be seen in the line 24...dxe5 25 Nxf6+ exf6 26 Nh5! Here, without a pawn on e5, the black queen would save the day by swinging over to g5. Instead, Black is lost due to 26...gxh5 27 Rgl+. 25 exf6 exf6 26 Qxh7+ Kf8 27 Qh8+ Black resigns. 27...Ke7 28 Nxd5+ Qxd5 29 Re1+ would have settled matters. Karpov went on to reign as world champion from 1975 to 1985, while Korchnoi never quite managed to ascend the throne.

Winning Move

White to Play. Korchnoi-Karpov, Moscow 1974. How did White launch a devastating attack?



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: winning-move@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...Rxe5! wins: 2 dxe5 (2 Rxe5 Qg6 is similar) 2...Qg6 3 Bf1 Nf3+.

The winner is Ernie Shippin of Edinburgh. The runners-up are Gerry Bell of Belfast, and Peter Vestof Penylan, Cardiff.



Codeword No 5350

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

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	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	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 9666

- Across**
- 1 Celebrated Spanish football team (4,6)
 - 7 More boisterous or disorderly (7)
 - 8 Go to see (5)
 - 10 Convent (7)
 - 11 Savoury jelly (5)
 - 12 Public display of respect (6)
 - 15 Anatomical cord attaching muscle to bone (6)
 - 17 Phonetic alphabet "O" (5)
 - 18 Unpredictable (7)
 - 21 Attempt to catch fish with a large net (5)
 - 22 Spanish princess (7)
 - 23 British butterfly (3,7)
- Down**
- 1 Mountain ash (5)
 - 2 Star ---, Asian spice (5)
 - 3 Person who dies for a cause (6)
 - 4 Diverge (7)
 - 5 Bland, weak (7)
 - 6 Double-breasted waterproof garment (6,4)
 - 9 Expert professional given political power (10)
 - 13 Decorative craft involving knotted string (7)
 - 14 Great ape (7)
 - 16 Very light gaseous element (6)
 - 19 Allude (to) (5)
 - 20 Of a sound's quality, pitch etc (5)

Solution to Crossword 9665

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

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. Divide into sets of three:

CANE	CHINOOK	CURTAIN	CYRUS
DRESS	DROGON	ESTATE	FALL GRAMMY
HIVER	INNER	LETTER	MAGIC
MILEY	MISTRAL	REPUTATION	ROLE
SCIROCCO	SHOOT	SMAUG	TOOTHLESS

2. Only six numbers are equal to the sum of the cubes of their digits: 0, 1, 153, 370, 407, and **which other number?**

3. Divide into 3 sets of 3. What did we takeaway?

AM, BLT, BRY, EERON, HWN, KORM, MAK, NEOLTN, NGR

Literary Quiz

The Times Literary Desk

I Spy

Which authors are responsible for these fictional agents?

- 1. George Smiley
- 2. Richard Hannay
- 3. Alex Rider
- 4. Eve Polastri

The Listener Crossword No 4838 **Work in Question** by Seps

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 4838, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, to arrive by October 31.

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 listenercrossword.com

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

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode..... Phone/email.....

The six-letter name of the puzzle's subject can be read as a two-word phrase. In five clues a word has been affected by this phrase and needs restoring to enable solving. In five clues the wordplay leads to the (normally entered) answer affected in a different way by the phrase. Four clues' answers are changed for entry. In the remaining 26 clues a letter in the definition is misprinted; the corrections describe the changed entries and give a thematic symbol. Solvers must highlight two words of similar meaning, both connected with the subject (10 cells in all, in the shape of the symbol). Numbers in brackets are the lengths of grid entries. *The Chambers Dictionary* (2016) is the primary reference.

Across

- 1 Greek god loses son in this epic poem (9)
- 10 Some car halted, respecting hooter (6)
- 11 Scutum hidden in favourite mattress (6)
- 12 Extra trace unsettled compulsive better (7)
- 13 List of cats ranks Burmese style showing esteem (4)
- 14 A Lord at sea entertains one of wiggled marine set (6)
- 16 Supply like borrowed chino without stopping trousers line (6)
- 18 Post's assuredly reducing daily (6)
- 20 Recipe faithfully omitting wine from desk (5)
- 21 King once seizing north regional division (6)
- 24 Dutch Defence trap turned back trouble (6)
- 25 Colonist aged in somewhat proud poses? (5)
- 26 Dizzy Len, whacked earlier, going downhill fast (6)
- 29 Note in Australian Open curtailed quality of being Vitas (6)
- 31 Around clubs, Scots rock posture on toe (6)
- 32 Airborne sieger left floating vessel (4)
- 33 Do in unruly horse, one that rears (7)
- 35 Noses maybe blown together as dirt flies (6)
- 36 Poisonous gas damaged ears (6)
- 37 Tints braided in match condition of new coil (9, two words)

Down

- 1 In short rough drain shifts bit of water (7)
- 2 Chapeau covering a right old French bat (5)
- 3 Agent of dancer subject to company info (7)
- 4 Life a country town's ending, wise to forget origin (8)
- 5 Possibly happy top note soars (3)
- 6 Hell for the aged injured initially in outdated hospital (4)
- 7 Silk covered up by suede elbows (5)
- 8 With ecstasy Anning lit on one scalloped sea creature (8)
- 9 Crafty edit leaves riotous old variety routine for such as Marx (5)
- 11 After stay store up sticky stuff from beds (8)
- 15 Nearly 12, suffers extremely sleepy state (8)
- 17 Cater shoddily with any chewable provision for railway (8)
- 19 Those practising can take toeclips off (8)
- 22 Unlucky royal's one trapped by money (7)
- 23 Watch official before getting into free running (7)
- 26 Tricky unit in Middle English part of degree (5)
- 27 Cardi's knitted piece from ancient Gran (5)
- 28 Potentially shows Mary a real thing (5)
- 30 Sunny judge perhaps taking up independent post in India (4)
- 34 Bit of a kip following heroin — this covers dope (3)

Jumbo crossword No 1698

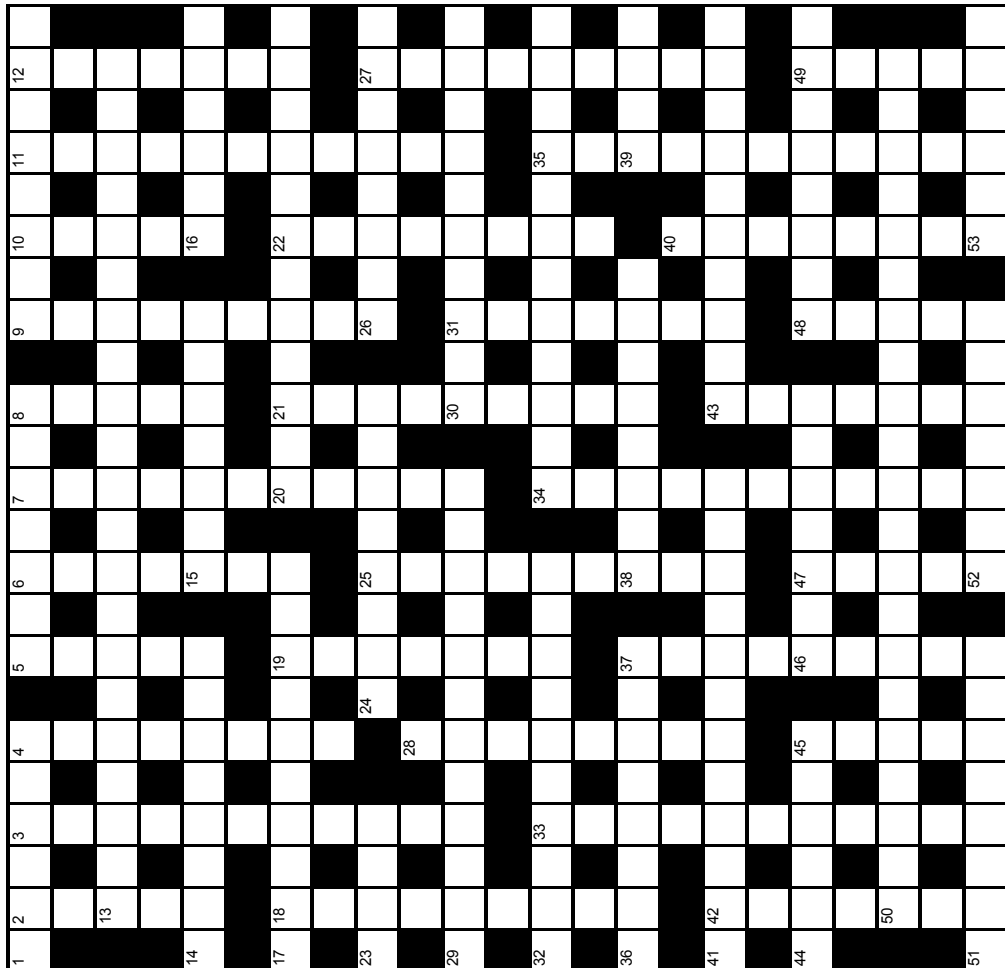
Cryptic clues

Across

- 1 Orpheus finally coming to Stygian realm — in Ray-Bans? (6)
- 5 Your writer writes in crimson — not green (7)
- 9 Distinct character's island god embracing holy work (8)
- 13 Old mark used in complex cash agreement with China for currency control (8,4,9)
- 14 Literary composition on page — very small piece? (8)
- 15 Bone from three in the reckoning? (7)
- 16 Duck, then another ancient Briton saves for cat (6)
- 17 Means to wipe material linked with online pest (6,4)
- 20 In the cooking dad was all for this culinary classic (7,5)
- 23 Murphy from south meeting reflective Unionists (4)
- 24 Airport dispute dogging former PM (8)
- 26 Ring through often on such personal extensions? (8)
- 29 Isn't that Tatum FBI agent's arrested? Or Craven? (5-7)
- 30 Appearance of fast current — no going back (10)
- 32 Comedy at last in two sections provides amusing turn (5,5)
- 34 Reward — our men earn it corruptly (12)
- 36 Revealing source, legendary Swiss thanks the French (8)
- 38 Engineer's instrument is one that's not working (8)
- 39 Said to be in power shower (4)
- 41 One standing in for royal pair, earnest man discharging seconds (6,6)
- 43 Free hotel in secure enclosure close to town? That's an old chestnut! (10)
- 44 American inventor's instinct about protecting little girl (6)
- 46 Fireplace feature inlaid with nickel and stone (7)
- 48 Branch specialised in launching carpeting line (8)
- 50 Male in great metropolis accommodates writer following fire in research centre (6,6,9)
- 51 Unbeatable on new wicket that turns, covered loosely (8)
- 52 Ray and Henry escaping village near Tokyo once (7)
- 53 Oregan, for one, in central Greece throttling upper-class dope (6)

Down

- 2 Why we don't start with an ascendant animal? (5)
- 3 Dance technique never succeeded with fellow in plant (11)
- 4 Tom perhaps in Ascot agitated, somewhat abrupt in bars? (8)
- 5 Mischievous journey up Parisian street is entertaining (5)
- 6 Country girl in Reading? (7)
- 7 Woman's experience after capture is hell (11)
- 8 Twinkling in private room reveals Screwtape, say (5)
- 9 Trouble means covering for government department (9)
- 10 Inspiration displayed by punter at Oaks (5)
- 11 Flash damaged a port initially set for obsolete browser? (11)
- 12 Having, rolled a lofty pitch, test results in draw (7)
- 18 Gold leaf walls in Chinese family home (9)
- 19 Love goddess hosting a function (7)
- 21 More vulgar chap appropriating grand language (3,6)
- 22 Voluntarily avoids having worries about planet (8)
- 25 Othello for example right — heartless loser crushed (5,4)
- 27 With online scam over, lightwad endlessly cut spending (9)
- 28 Hearty pie and mash prepared — time to tuck in (8)
- 31 Dutchman's pipe in long drain (7)
- 33 Bent investigator? (6,5)
- 34 Conservative having to fix pain, taking hour outside (5-6)
- 35 Hostile Republican consumed in obsession (11)
- 37 Ivy for one always the ingenue? (9)
- 40 A relative skipping one grips point in narrative (8)
- 42 Beam in relief having risen in rank (7)
- 43 Burn body of old woman found in Minoans' island (7)
- 45 Interference with signal in northern French department? (5)
- 47 Native Alaskan beer presented without head (5)
- 48 Relationship over with call for sailor's attention? (5)
- 49 Material about to be ignored in youngster's drawer (5)

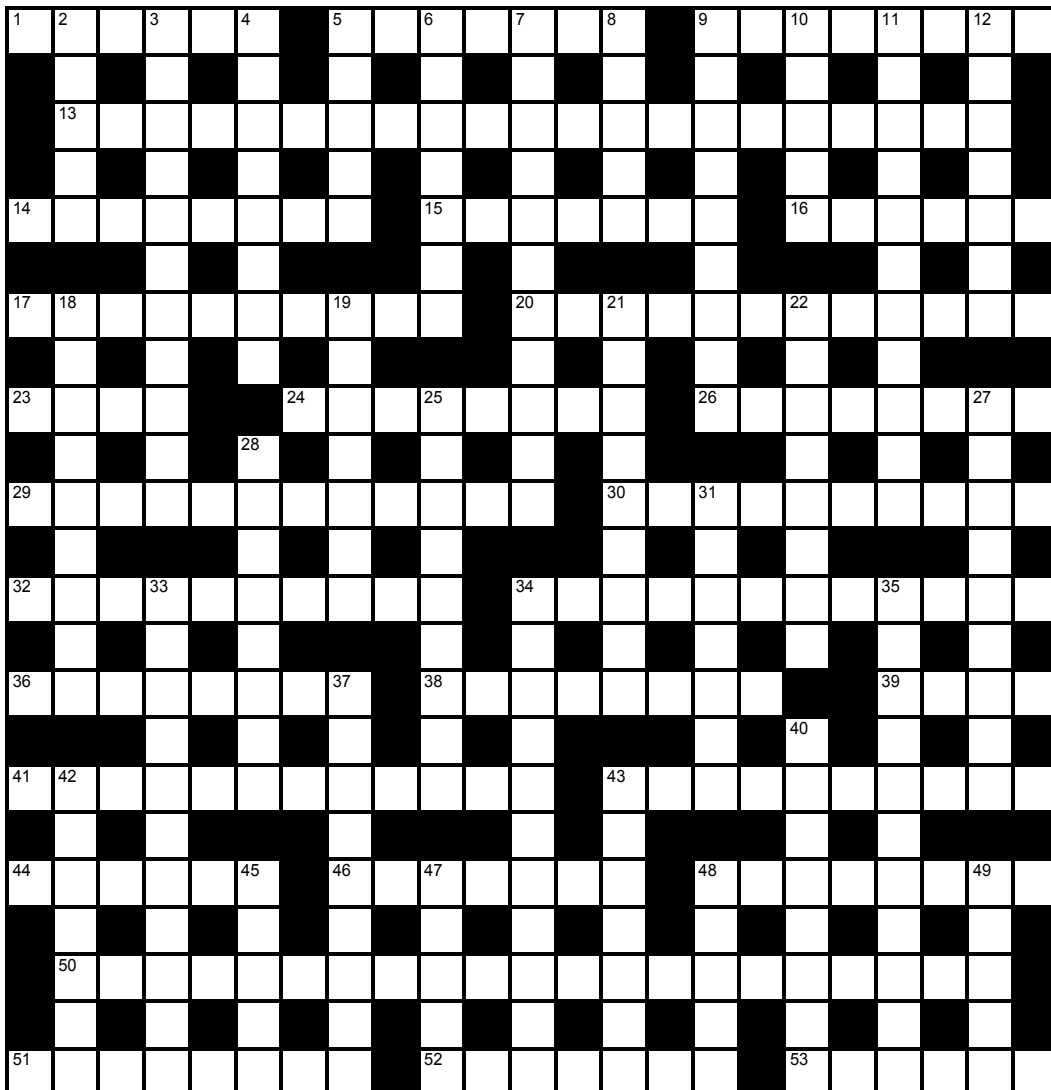


Prizes
 The prize for each of the first correct solutions to the Cryptic and times2 Jumbo clues to be opened will be a collection of Times reference books, including *The Times Reference Atlas of the World*, *Collins English Dictionary & Thesaurus*, and *Bradford's Crossword Solver's Dictionary* published by HarperCollins. Entries should be marked "Cryptic" or "times2" and sent to: The Times Jumbo Crossword 1698, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ, or emailed to: jumbo@thetimes.co.uk, with "Cryptic 1698" or "times2 1698" in the subject line, to arrive by October 31. Open to 18+ UK & ROI residents only. The winners and the solutions will be published on November 2.

Name.....
 Address.....

 Postcode.....
 Phone number.....

Jumbo crossword No 1698



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Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Phone number.....

Across

- 1 Obvious; government licence (6)
- 5 Dessert (7)
- 9 Total; not relative (8)
- 13 The alternative viewpoint (3,5,4,2,3,4)
- 14 Fellow Christians (8)
- 15 Arranged in a constant pattern (7)
- 16 Continue (4,2)
- 17 Expressing contempt or disapproval (10)
- 20 Style of horse race (12)
- 23 Red gemstone (4)
- 24 Desire for food (8)
- 26 Lack of light (8)
- 29 Process of speeding up (12)
- 30 Shop selling pastries and cakes (10)
- 32 Believing everything is predetermined (10)
- 34 Arrangement of three living together (6,1,5)
- 36 Synthetic polymer (8)
- 38 Direction of a magnetic field (8)
- 39 Long difficult journey (4)

- 41 Not regulated (12)
- 43 Strong desire to travel (10)
- 44 Fixed share (6)
- 46 Deprive of shelter (7)
- 48 Three-hulled boat (8)
- 50 Common proverb (1,7,3,5,5)
- 51 Window set on a vertical hinge (8)
- 52 Immature frog or toad (7)
- 53 — Shackleton, explorer (6)

Down

- 2 Plant of a genus including the Michaelmas daisy (5)
- 3 Liquid or gel in a battery (11)
- 4 University lesson (8)
- 5 Tidy and clean (feathers) (5)
- 6 Merit (7)
- 7 Discomfort after eating (11)
- 8 Evil phantom (5)
- 9 Animal such as a spider or crustacean (9)
- 10 High-quality cut of beef (5)
- 11 Coins for small expenditures (5,6)
- 12 Very weak or slight (7)

- 18 Say clearly (9)
- 19 Insert into the body (7)
- 21 Unexpected revelation (3-6)
- 22 Ancient language of central Italy (8)
- 25 Relating to a bishop (9)
- 27 Pungent flavour (9)
- 28 Matter settling in a liquid (8)
- 31 Make more taut (7)
- 33 Estimate fairly accurately (11)
- 34 Psychologically incapable of dealing with day-to-day situations (11)
- 35 Return of like for like (11)
- 37 Profit from employment (9)
- 40 Able to be depended on (8)
- 42 Site of famous falls (7)
- 43 To which (7)
- 45 Shallow recess (5)
- 47 Go away! (3,2)
- 48 In that place (5)
- 49 Beasts of burden (5)

Bridge Andrew Robson

One of my favourite bidding maxims is, "If you have a choice of calls and one of them is a take-out double, do that."

On this week's deal from the first weekend of this year's English Premier League Division Two, West ruffed his alternative route.

Dealer South N-S Vul

♠ K 8
♥ J 5
♦ A Q 10 6 3 2
♣ 9 7 5

♠ J 9
♥ A Q 4 3
♦ 7
♣ A K 10 8 4 2

♠ 10 6 5 3 2
♥ K 9 8 7 6
♦ 9 4
♣ 6

♠ A Q 7 4
♥ 10 2
♦ K J 8 5
♣ Q J 3



Table One

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

(1) Another of my favourite maxims is, "When choosing between a weak option (here, a Weak 2♦) and a strong one, opt for the strong one; you may steal that way."

(2) Hmm.

(3) Has a club stopper; hopes partner has a heart stopper (no one bid hearts, after all).

A third maxim I like is, "With a choice of leading low or high v Notrumps, lead high." That way, you have a chance to switch suits. West, however, led his fourth-highest club. A grateful declarer won and hurriedly claimed ten tricks (with six diamonds and three spades to come). N-S +630.

If West had led out his two top clubs, East could have signalled for hearts and the defence would have scuppered the game. Even that, however, would have been a mediocre result for their side ...

Table Two

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

(1) Yes.

(2) May make, may steal. Partner won't make this take-out double without four hearts, so there's a nine-card fit. Jumping to 4♥ can't be far out.

(3) "I have 13 points and my partner opened." South's other choice would be 5♦ but that would hardly be a success — three down, probably doubled.

South led a diamond v East's 4♥ doubled, North winning the ace and switching to king and another spade. South won the queen and led a third (low) spade. Declarer had to ruff high in dummy, North discarding (a diamond).

Starting on the clubs, declarer cashed the ace and ruffed a club. He then cashed the king of hearts and crossed to dummy's remaining high heart, delighted to observe the two-two split. He could now cash the king of clubs (not minding if the suit split 4-2) and could run the suit. Doubled game made and E-W +420.

Remember those three maxims in choice situations.

(1) Prefer the take-out double.

(2) Prefer the strength-showing bid, not the weaker one.

(3) Lead high v Notrumps, not fourth highest.

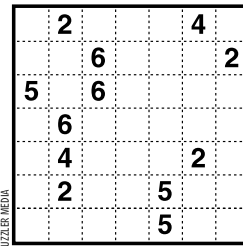
Polygon Roger Phillips



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: 17 words average; 23, good; 30, very good; 37, excellent.

Cell Blocks 5233

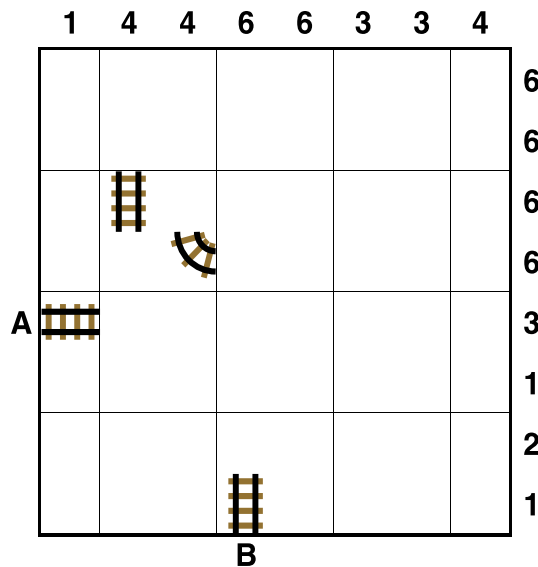


Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

Train Tracks
No 2377

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.

Solution on Monday



Solutions

Solution to last week's Samurai Sudoku

1	2	6	5	8	7	3	4	9	9	2	8	5	6	4	3	1	7
3	9	8	2	4	1	5	7	6	3	5	6	7	9	1	2	8	4
7	5	4	6	3	9	8	2	1	4	7	1	2	3	8	6	5	9
2	3	7	9	5	8	1	6	4	2	1	9	3	8	6	4	7	5
6	8	1	3	2	4	7	9	5	8	6	7	4	2	5	1	9	3
5	4	9	1	7	6	2	8	3	5	3	4	1	7	9	8	6	2
9	6	5	8	1	2	4	3	7	1	2	9	6	8	5	9	4	3
4	1	2	7	6	3	9	5	8	3	7	6	1	4	2	6	5	7
8	7	3	4	9	5	6	1	2	4	5	8	7	9	3	8	1	2
									5	2	6	7	8	3	4	1	9
									8	9	3	5	4	1	2	6	7
									1	7	4	9	6	2	5	3	8
4	8	2	5	3	1	7	6	9	2	3	4	8	5	1	3	9	2
9	7	1	6	2	4	3	8	5	6	1	7	9	2	4	8	6	7
3	5	6	7	8	9	2	4	1	8	9	5	3	7	6	4	5	1
1	4	8	9	5	7	6	3	2				4	3	8	9	2	6
2	9	3	8	4	6	1	5	7				5	1	9	7	4	3
5	6	7	3	1	2	4	9	8				2	6	7	5	1	8
6	1	9	4	7	5	8	2	3				1	4	3	2	7	5
7	3	4	2	9	8	5	1	6				6	8	5	1	3	9
8	2	5	1	6	3	9	7	4				7	9	2	6	8	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 6341

KenKen grid with numbers and operations: 4x2=8, 2+5=7, 5x3=15, 3-1=2, 1x6=6, 2x5=10, 6+1=7, 4-3=1, 1x4=4, 3x6=18, 2x5=10, 3x5=15, 6-1=5, 3x2=6, 1x4=4, 2x5=10, 3x4=12, 5x3=15, 4x2=8, 6x1=6

Sudoku No 15,315

Sudoku grid: 8 6 5 1 9 3 2 7 4; 2 3 4 8 7 6 5 9 1; 1 7 9 5 4 2 3 6 8; 4 8 7 9 6 5 1 2 3; 9 2 6 4 3 1 7 8 5; 5 1 3 2 8 7 9 4 6; 3 5 8 7 2 4 6 1 9; 7 9 1 6 5 8 4 3 2; 6 4 2 3 1 9 8 5 7

Sudoku No 15,316

Sudoku grid: 2 4 5 1 3 8 9 7 6; 9 7 8 4 5 6 1 3 2; 6 1 3 2 7 9 5 4 8; 4 5 2 9 6 1 3 8 7; 7 9 1 3 8 4 6 2 5; 8 3 6 7 2 5 4 1 9; 3 6 9 8 4 7 2 5 1; 1 2 7 5 9 3 8 6 4; 5 8 4 6 1 2 7 9 3

Sudoku No 15,317

Sudoku grid: 2 4 9 5 3 7 1 8 6; 6 7 3 1 2 8 9 4 5; 5 1 8 9 6 4 2 7 3; 7 6 1 4 9 2 5 3 8; 8 5 2 3 7 1 6 9 4; 9 3 4 8 5 6 7 1 2; 1 2 5 7 4 3 8 6 9; 3 9 7 6 8 5 4 2 1; 4 8 6 2 1 9 3 5 7

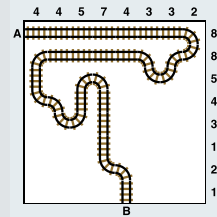
Killer No 9736

Killer grid: 4 9 2 5 8 6 7 1 3; 5 8 3 9 7 1 4 6 2; 1 7 6 3 2 4 9 8 5; 3 4 9 8 5 2 6 7 1; 7 1 5 4 6 3 2 9 8; 2 6 8 1 9 7 5 3 4; 9 5 1 7 4 8 3 2 6; 8 2 4 6 3 9 1 5 7; 6 3 7 2 1 5 8 4 9

Killer No 9737

Killer grid: 5 8 6 2 9 1 3 4 7; 4 1 3 5 8 7 2 6 9; 2 7 9 6 3 4 1 8 5; 6 9 5 8 1 3 4 7 2; 8 3 4 9 7 2 6 5 1; 1 2 7 4 6 5 8 9 3; 7 6 8 1 2 9 5 3 4; 9 5 1 3 4 6 7 2 8; 3 4 2 7 5 8 9 1 6

Train Tracks No 2376



Codeword No 5349

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

Word search grid with words: F I N D A B O T T L E A; R A U R A L O N G; A Y L Z I D O L A T E R; N D G E O W P S T R O; K M O G R U E S O M E B; A I R C R E W L N E M U; L E O A F O R D E A U S; M E T S M U R O G S I; O R U E T S G O F L I N; I A N L T S A A L I R E; G L D A I A N N O A L S; N D A W I N E G L A S S

The Listener 4835 B Is for ... by Piccadilly
Extra letters from asterisked clues gave "French wines". The top and bottom rows read "find a bottle and a wineglass". Tracing Beaujolais and Burgundy formed the shape of a bottle in the upper half of the grid and Beaune and Bordeaux similarly formed a wineglass in the lower half. More details at listenercrossword.com. The winners are Chris Cormack of North Berwick, East Lothian; John Griffin of Linthorpe, North Yorkshire; Ian Holloway of London W14.

Cryptic Jumbo 1696 crossword grid: SATISFIED, DOWAGER, SHAKO, CHONER, HECREN, ROEBUCK, PIANO, ONSLAUGHT, UPRRPRWS, SIBOH, BLINDSOMEONE, WITHSCIENCE, COTCEHLTE, WAKEUP, MACARONI, ABSOLVE, RWGSTRN, NEV, ARITHMETIC, AFFECTIONATE, TCELNFESUUVL, HIKER, ENGRAVE, STARTLED, PUCSBBEO, MAGNETIC, COLDWAR, ROUND, FPIILLIEHU, TO, OVERCRITICAL, NITPICKING, RRNF, CSTON, G, GESTALT, FORSOOTH, KNOTTY, IDUHALLS, D, VICTORIA, ANDALBERT, MUSEUM, ARP, TN, ILIS, UCCA, BREATHING, AVERT, PUTDOWN, LDEOETROOOLS, EVOKE, NURSERY, PARTRIDGE

Solution to Cryptic Jumbo 1696

The winner is Andrew Lake of Amesbury, Wilt

Suko 4251 crossword grid: BOOTSTRAP, DUCTILE, UMBRA, URNNOI, INXNLR, REDCOAT, POSSE, ANARCHISM, SEWUITVTCLNA, THROWN, SHATINTOT, HERING, OHDT, NCE, NA, E, SUFFIX, DRYCLEAN, ENRAGED, TTTTEEESTED, ACHIEVABLE, DEVILS, STATTOO, LER, RLC, LV, DD, N, LITUP, GRENADE, EXECUTOR, HRENV, ALW, GIGANTIC, DRESSER, TUNIC, FS, WH, INYN, TL, EATONESWORDS, UNDERQUOTE, TLYOFCRUBA, TREASON, SYMPATHY, SATURN, UIEEASRTDS, CROWNPROSECUTIONS, SERVICE, CTEG, IAEN, UN, A, INTHEWIND, BINGO, TIPPETT, NERSEREUSLSE, EYRIE, MASSEUR, STEVENSON

Solution to Suko 4251

The winner is Carole Taylor-West of Kegworth, Derbyshire

Cell Blocks 5232

Cell Blocks grid: 2, 2, 4; 3, 3, 4, 5; 12, 12; 2, 12

Suko 4251

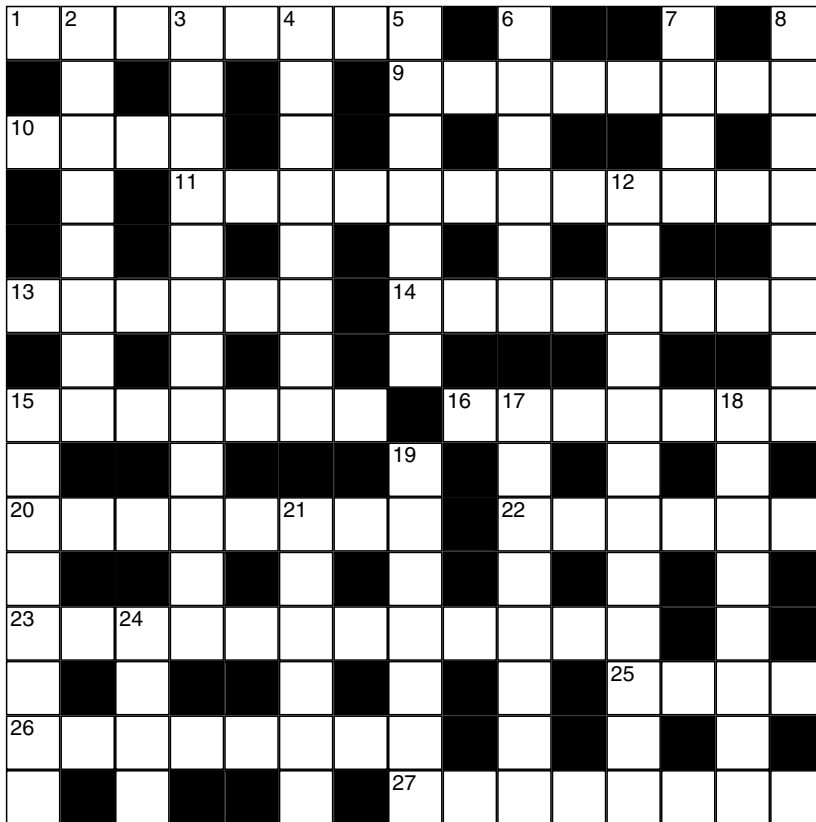
Suko 4251 grid: 6 8 1; 21, 22; 3 4 9; 19, 20; 7 5 2

Mindset 1. {CANE, CURTAIN, SHOOT} — follow BAMBOO; {LETTER, REPUTATION, ROLE} — synonyms of CHARACTER; {DRESS, INNER, MAGIC} — precede CIRCLE; {DROGON, SMAUG, TOOTHLESS} — fictional DRAGONS; {MILEY, CYRUS, GRAMMY} — was for "FLOWERS"; {FALL, ESTATE, HIVER} — SEASONS in different languages {CHINOOK, MISTRAL, SCIROCCO} names of WINDS. These are all types of tiles in Mahjong. 2. 371. This is both 1 and 1^3 greater than 370. 3. {AM, MAK, NGR} — SASHIMI, MAKI, NIGIRI with letters of SUSHI taken away; {BLT, BRY, KORM} — BALTI, BIRYANI, KORMA with letters of INDIAN taken away {EERON, HWN, NEOLTN} — PEPPERONI, HAWAIIAN, NEAPOLITAN with letters of PIZZA taken away.

Word Watch

Carduus (c) A thistle (Collins)
Emptings (a) Yeast (OED)
Keech (a) A lump of fat (Collins)
Cymotrichous (b) Wavy-haired (Chambers).
Polygon almond, clad, clampdown, clod, coda, cold, compand, damn, damp, dawn, dolma, dolman, dopa, down, dwam, land, load, modal, mold, monad, nodal, nomad, plod, pond, waldo, wand, woad, wold.
Scrabble
1 BOLEROS, 2 CERVEZA, 3 CEVICHE, 4 HOMBRES, 5 PUEBLOS, 6 SANGRIA (SARANGI and NAGARIS also valid); MANCHEGO (F6d) — 80 points; TOREADOR (H1d) — 80 points.
Literary quiz
1 John le Carré 2 John Buchan 3 Anthony Horowitz 4 Luke Jennings.
Cryptic Quintagram
1 Tory 2 Truss 3 Jenrick 4 Whately 5 Tugendhat.

Times Crossword No 29,052



Across

- 1 "Scandalous", fumes Hal, distraught (8)
- 9 A mafioso touring capitals coming across large resort (8)
- 10 Foreigners, not at first following locals (4)
- 11 Settled, lives and works OK (12)
- 13 Countries coming together in defeat become exhausted (3,3)
- 14 Another so-called "man" in need of flipping energy drink! (8)
- 15 Result of inaccurate approach (7)
- 16 Face down in trailer in protective garment (7)
- 20 Anticipated quartet being unfamiliar to audience (8)
- 22 To the French, all the same Republican cause? (6)
- 23 CPGB regret a mix-up with a candidate from outside (12)
- 25 Piece dug out by club recalled timeless old poet (4)

- 26 At A&E having ingested drug (8)
- 27 Goes back on right to return fare (8)

Down

- 2 Port's house nothing outstanding? (8)
- 3 Change in objectives, since promise has been broken (7,5)
- 4 Versatile employee, in truth corporation receiving nothing (8)
- 5 Dropping round with Carol (7)
- 6 Greeting son in the manner of mother upset (6)
- 7 Too wrapped up in Apollo's launch (4)
- 8 Religious leader seen in Welsh town (8)
- 12 First sample maybe that's hooked to second steroid (12)
- 15 Refuse to accept company no longer sanctioned (8)
- 17 Mournful, mean fellow (8)
- 18 Spirit driver away from Escort, one damaged by cracks (8)
- 19 Top of tree was shaking (7)
- 21 Idiot can put up with losing footing (6)
- 24 The luxury of having court documents read out (4)

Yesterday's solution 29,051

