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Welcome, audiobook listeners. Please enjoy this collection of puzzles and puzzle-related images from my book.

#### The First Crossword Puzzle

The crossword is a surprisingly recent invention—most historians say the first official crossword puzzle was written by a former concert violinist named Arthur Wynne and appeared in 1913 in *The New York World* (a newspaper that also gifted us with the less delightful legacy of yellow journalism).

FUN 

Fill in the small squares with words which agree with the following definitions:

2-3. What bargain hunters	2-11. A talon.
enjoy.	19-28. A pigeon.
4-5. A written	F-7. Part of your head.
acknowledgement.	23-30. A river in Russia.
6-7. Such and nothing more.	1-32. To govern.
<b>10-11.</b> A bird.	33-34. An aromatic plant.
14-15. Opposed to less.	N-8. A fist.
18-19. What this puzzle is.	24-31. To agree with.
22-23. An animal of prey.	3-12. Part of a ship.
26-27. The close of a day.	20-29. One.
28-29. To elude.	5-27. Exchanging.
<b>30-31.</b> The plural of is.	9-25. Sunk in mud.
8-9. To cultivate.	13-21. A boy.
12-13. A bar of wood or iron.	
16-17. What artists learn to	
do.	
<b>20-21.</b> Fastened.	
24-25. Found on the seashore.	
10-18. The fibre of the gomuti	
palm.	
6-22. What we all should be.	
<b>4-26.</b> A day dream.	

For solutions to this and other puzzles, see page 139 in this document.

# FUN'S Word-Cross Puzzle.

## The founding Times crossword editor

The *Times* didn't print crosswords for many years (they considered them too lowbrow). But on February 15, 1942, The *New York Times* buckled to popular pressure and printed their first crossword puzzle. It was under the guidance of the founding *Times* crossword editor, the extraordinary Margaret Petherbridge Farrar. Margaret introduced several key improvements, including making the puzzles symmetrical, fixing the inaccuracies, and banning two-letter words.



#### The Inkubator Crossword

*The Inkubator* (<u>https://inkubatorcrosswords.com</u>/) is a subscription service that features women and non-binary constructors. Here's a sample puzzle:

#### SECRET SHARERS

#### **Tracy Bennett and Laura Braunstein**

#### Across

1. Wilderness pack snack 5. Some families have two 10. Dropped letters? 13. Architect Lin or poet Angelou 14. Moon-shaped 15. She played Mia in "Pulp Fiction" 16. Where the Raven was rapping and tapping, in a Poe poem 18. 87% of New York Times crossword constructors, in 2017 19. Straw hats and parasols, e.g. 20. Rocky beach particle 22. Camping spot for an Airstream 25. Some sacred winter songs 26. Met Gala, for one 30. Waters who sang "Stormy Weather" 31. Storm and Metro maker 32. "I like the cut of your \_\_\_\_\_ 35. Flowed 38. T. S. Eliot's internal debate about eating a peach 41. "\_\_\_\_-dollar Founding Father without a father..." 42. Go on the \_\_\_\_ (skedaddle) 44. Some matriarchs 45. Lime, for a certain pie 50. A-line or maxi, for a skirt 52. Monetary unit of Iceland 53. Gertrude Stein's beloved Alice B. 55. Joan Watson portrayer in "Elementary" **59.** Former Texas governor Richards **60.** Julia Child had one for hollandaise 63. Make like Mikaela Shiffrin or Picabo Street 64. Tread lightly 65. Give consent 66. Cloche or pillbox 67. Stands out like a queen, in modern parlance 68. Unites legally

#### Down

Some SUVs
Site of Queen Lili'uokalani's palace
Jeri of "Star Trek" and "Boston Public"



#### 4. She was Foxy Brown

- 5. 18th-century American feminist Judith
- Sargent \_\_\_
- 6. Plus
- 7. Jiang Qing, Madame \_\_\_\_
- 8. On
  - 9. \_\_\_\_ Slam (rare achievement in tennis)
  - 10. She's quite a feller
- 11. Febreze target
- $\label{eq:constraint} \textbf{12.} \ \text{Karen Blixen and Connie Nielsen, for}$
- two **14.** Bounded
- **17.** Angles, as on a jewel**21.** "Sk8er \_\_\_\_" (Avril Lavigne hit)
- 23. On the \_\_\_\_ (derogatory term for
- menstruation)
- 24. Britney's ex
- 26. The Shakers were one
- 27. Plains people
- **28.** Like a cowl made on size 15 needles
- 29. "Learn to Fly" band \_\_\_\_ Fighters
- 33. Shirin Ebadi's country
- 34. Defeat

#### 36. Priest who blessed Hannah

- 37. Like some memes or basements
- 39. Bring about, as labor
- 40. Holstein who's udderly productive
- 43. She's the one in charge: Abbr.
- 46. First in line?
- 47. Agents working in bread and beer
- **48.** Log-rolling competitions for a 10-Down
- 49. Accustom
- 50. Cannabis supply
- 51. Name on a little girl's front end loader,
- perhaps
- 54. Spinnaker, mizzen or 32-Across, e.g.
- 56. Click the heart icon
- 57. Tablet that's hard to swallow
- 58. On-the-road roll reversals?
- 61. Cook \_\_\_\_ storm
- 62. State division with a seat: Abbr.

#### Scandinavian crossword

The American crossword format is the most famous, but other formats exist. Here's an example of a Swedish-style crossword, where the clues are embedded within the grid itself. (They are also sometimes called Arrow Word puzzles.) I like the clean design. So Scandinavian.

Couple	₹	Lofty	*	Rating unit	₹	Spring flower	•
►							
Flour box		You're looking at it		African cobras		Way in, way out	
▶		•		•		•	
Fruit farms	Cave- man's weapon		Part of a poem		Clump		Russo or Clair
_►	•		•		·		•
Artist, master of shapes	ſ►						
Spare time		Get some air		Mole- cule part		Choir song	
Food fish	4	4		V		<b>V</b>	
Ţ	Clear soup		Update		Butter- fly		Power of a number
4	Clear soup		Update		Butter- fly ▼		Power of a number
4	Clear soup Not here		Update Hen tracks on paper	•	Butter- fly		Power of a number
	Clear soup Not here		Update Hen tracks on paper	Celtic cat	Butter- fly	Picture puzzle	Power of a number
Furry feet	Clear soup Not here	Egypt's capital	Update Hen tracks on paper	Celtic cat	Butter- fly	Picture puzzle	Power of a number
Furry feet	Clear soup Not here	Egypt's capital	Update Hen tracks on paper	Celtic cat School tool	Butter- fly	Picture puzzle	Power of a number
Furry feet Mouse clicker	Clear soup Not here	Egypt's capital Pueblo brick	Update Hen tracks on paper	Celtic cat School	Butter- fly	Picture puzzle	Power of a number
Furry feet	Clear soup Not here	Egypt's capital Pueblo brick	Update Hen tracks on paper	Celtic cat School tool	Butter- fly	Picture puzzle	Power of a number

To solve the puzzle simply write your answers in the direction of the arrows. (For bigger images of this and other puzzles, visit thepuzzlerbook.com).

#### **Fireball Crossword**

And finally, here's an example of a fiendishly difficult crossword puzzle by Peter Gordon.

	N RE1	ſ	R		A	Λ	1	N	1	•						ţ	FI	R	1
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	ACROSS	55	Thi	ng u	nde	r a		gu	ın" v	vrite	er			or r	age				-
1	Monkey or ape		fern	nata			4	A	s a s	ubs	titut	e	24	Co	zy			44	
6	Purple Pantone	56	Esti	rang	e		5	С	onsi	dere	ed fo	or		stop	oove	ers			
	color		bed	fello	ws?			a j	ob?				25	Do	n't le	eave	•	45	
0	"Band of	58	Ani	mal	wh	ose	6	Sc	quisl	hee	selle	er		top	less,	as a	a		1
	Brothers" event		thic	k fu	r tu	rns		of	Spi	ring	field	l		roo	m			46	
4	"Manner of		whi	te ir	n the	е	7	Η	eel				26	"He	ow t	0		47	
	sitting," in		win	ter			8	Po	ounc	d sou	und			Sur	vive				
	Sanskrit	62	Kan	ncha	atka	's	9	Ja	mai	can	regg	gae		Par	entł	1000	<u>1</u> "		
5	Reject with		setti	ing				sii	nger	wit	h			aut	hor	LeS	Shan	48	
	disdain	63	Plac	e fo	or a			th	e hi	t "H	Iere		28	Spa	ice-s	savii	ng		
6	Due		run	ner				С	ome	es th	ie			abb	r.		-	49	
7	Hope for good	64	196	2 O	livia	ı de		Η	otst	epp	er"		29	Bat	wo	od			1
	luck		Hav	villa	nd f	ilm	10	Τι	ırne	d d	own	,	32	Neg	gativ	vely		50	1
0	Like Tourette	72	Sidl	e				in	a w	ay				cha	rgeo	l pa	rticle		1
	syndrome	73	Pur	ity r	neas	sure	11	Li	nge	rov	rer		35	Box	er v	vĥo			1
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6	It's often close	1	2	3	4	5			6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13		
2	to a grand	14						15		1				16					1
8	Birthday cards?	17	-		-	-	18		+	1	-	-	19			+	+	60	(
9	He never met				20					1		21	-	_					,
í	his brother Seth		00	0.1					05	loc		07				00	00	61	-
1	Sister brand of		23	24					20	20		21				28	29	64	
Ĩ	Calvin Klein	30							31		32			33				51	,
2	Parent	34	-			35		36		1	1		37			+		65	
3	Impersonates	38	+	+		39	40	-	+		41	-	+	+					1
4	Flight				42		-			43		-	+		44	45	46	66	
۲	sergeant's org		7.5		·~													50	
7	Bright vellow	47	48	49					50	1			51	52					
1	Cravola color	53					54			1				55				67	
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# BALL vords

es over n oortunity, aphorically of the ıth nera ing ntract Palmas anish vince) ather of da ike ybuilders 9 hit with lyric "He ride ver 'neath streets of ton" nd in a ign country, orts verly norous son trumpeter er who played by an Hawke he movie rn to Be e" tain ources from a long story ated, with bly to a iff ikely orite in a se race of tocinquanta et-loving ppet la noyances of free apps

# Rubik The Amazing Cube

In the early 1980s, you could watch a Saturday morning cartoon series featuring a talking, flying, mystery-solving Rubik's Cube. Menudo did the theme song.



# The Pioneer

Jeff Varasano was one of the original Rubik's cube experts. Here's the book he wrote in the early 1980s. He now owns two pizzerias in Atlanta



# The Tutor

South Carolina resident Sydney Weaver was my Rubik's cube guru. Sydney is a nine-time gold medal-winning speedcuber turned teacher.



# The Rubik's Explosion

Thanks to 3-D printing, we are in the golden age of twisty puzzles, with a stunning variety of Rubik's-like stumpers. Above, a collection from Brett Kuehner (thatguywiththepuzzles. com). photo by Brett Kuehner



# The Record

Twisty puzzle designer Grégoire Pfennig with his record-breaking  $33 \times 33 \times 33$  cube



Photo by Daniele Roversi

# The Beast

Here I am with the Octahedron Starminx designed by Greg. One of the most difficult twisty puzzles ever.



# Spelling Bee (EIGAMTH)

The dangerously addictive Spelling Bee puzzle from the New York Times. Solvers must find words with a minimum of four letters that include the center letter. (For the below puzzle, "theme" is legal, but "gem" and "math" are not.)



### The rebus that stumped Will Shortz...for awhile.

This late 1800s rebus is by famed puzzler Sam Loyd. It stumped Will Shortz...until it didn't.

#### A SAM LOYD PUZZLE?

WILL SHORTZ Pleasantville, New York

Below is a copy of the rebus trade card from the 1870s or early '80s that I believe is Loyd's, based on the typography and style of printing. But I have no proof it is his.

Also I have no solution to the rebus. If any Word Ways reader can solve it, I'd love to hear about it.



# Sam Loyd

He was basically the Will Shortz of the nineteenth century—the most famous puzzle creator of his day. He even had a mustache like Will does, though Sam's was bushier.



SamLoyd

 $Will\,Shortz$ 

## Sam Loyd's Donkeys Puzzle

The Famous Trick Donkeys. One of Loyd's biggest hits was a puzzle he created to promote P. T. Barnum's circus, which sold millions of copies. It's called the Famous Trick Donkeys. To solve it, you cut out the three rectangles and then rearrange the pieces so that it looks like the jockeys are riding the donkeys.



Sam Loyd's Famous Trick Donkeys

### The 15 Puzzle

This sliding tiles puzzle was a huge craze in the 1880s, much like the Rubik's Cube a hundred years later. The *New York Times*, in an 1880 editorial, called it a "pestilence" that needed to be stamped out



Courtesy of Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

# May I CU home, my dear?

Rebuses were popular in the nineteenth century, including this rebus-style "escort card" a man might give a woman at the end of a date.



#### The Rebus Mania of 1937

During the Great Depression, Old Gold cigarettes ran a rebus contest that became a nationwide craze. Contestants had to solve ninety rebuses for a \$100,000 prize. A 1937 *Life* magazine article reported that two million people entered, spending a combined 160 million hours on the tournament. So many contestants flocked to libraries for research that some librarians had to enforce a fifteen-minute-per-person time limit on dictionary use. The winner was a U.S. Navy pilot, who split the prize with four friends. Here's a sample:



# Booker T Washington Rebus

Lone Star Beer started putting rebuses on the inside of their bottle caps in the early 2000s. The caps are now collector's items.



# **Rebus selection**

Modern-day rebuses abound on the Internet, such as the three following:



TRAVEL

CCCCCC

M1YL1IIF1E

# Team USA

Here is Team USA in the World Jigsaw Puzzle Championship: Jasper, Zane, Julie and me.



# The two-person jigsaw event

Zane and I compete in the two-person competition



#### The First Jigsaw

Most historians believe the first puzzles were created by a British mapmaker named John Spilsbury. Sometime around 1760, Spilsbury glued a paper map onto a wooden board and carved up the countries. Probably the most benign case in history of a Brit carving up a map. Spilsbury sold his "dissected maps" to British nobility as a geography aid.



# Early Jigsaws

In the first years, jigsaw puzzles often featured Biblical scenes or monarchs. Below is a nineteenth-century puzzle of British monarchs. coupsy of the bodleian libraries, oxford university.



# Jackson Pollock Puzzle

Springbok puzzle company published this Jackson Pollock jigsaw in 1965, proclaiming it the World's Most Difficult Puzzle.



Courtesy of The Strong, Rochester, New York

# Weird Stave Puzzle Pieces

A selection of hand-cut wooden pieces by Vermont-based Stave puzzles.



### Olivia

Olivia is an octopus-themed puzzle. The trick is that the pieces can be assembled in ten thousand different ways—but only one of those ways is correct and allows Olivia to fit inside the coral reef. It is considered one of the hardest jigsaw puzzles ever.



### **Ellis Island Puzzle**

This might be the highest stakes jigsaw puzzle in history. It was given to immigrants at Ellis Island in the early 1900s as a test that would allegedly weed out what they referred to as "the feeble-minded." It is currently housed at the Smithsonian. My great-grandparents likely had to assemble this puzzle when they arrived by steamship in New York.



### The Biggest Jigsaw

German puzzler Peter Schubert spent months assembling a 54,000-piece jigsaw of great paintings throughout history—only to find out at the end that he was missing a piece. Luckily, after several weeks, he retrieved the missing piece from the manufacturer and finished his magnum opus (bottom). At top, a stack of sections Peter assembled before connecting the entire jigsaw at a community center (his home was too small to fit the puzzle in its entirety). Photos by Daniel Bauer





### The Mash-Up

Modern jigsaws are usually not hand-carved. They are cut using something resembling an elaborate cookie cutter. Jigsaw makers sometimes use the same die-cut pattern for different puzzles. Artist Tim Klein takes advantage of this fact to mash them together and create stunning original images. Hereis his piece called "Iron Horse."



Courtesy of Tim Klein, Puzzlemontage.com

Basic Maze Diagram



Basic Labyrinth Diagram



### Hampton Court Maze

The Hampton Court Maze, built around 1700, has six-foot-tall hedges made of yew. e Hampton Court Maze has made an impressive contribution to science. It inspired nineteenth century psychologist Edmund Sanford to put rats in mazes.



# The Great Vermont Corn Maze

Possibly the hardest corn maze ever, this Vermont-based stumper has caused untold levels of frustration.



# My Corn maze Adventure

Here I am, mid-maze, feeling a mix of frustration, despair and optimism.



### Lewis Carroll Maze

Lewis Carroll, the author of *Alice in Wonderland*, drew this maze for his family in the 1850s. You must start at one of the three entrances on the left and find your way to the diamond in the center. Incidentally, the famed puzzle writer Martin Gardner said that pencil mazes should not be solved with a pencil, but instead with a toothpick. He said "morons" could be taught to do it with a pencil. But I say, go ahead and use a pencil if you want. I won't judge.


# Adrian Fisher Maze

A pencil maze by the insanely prolific Adrian Fisher.



#### The Giza Maze

Detroit-based artist Michelle Boggess-Nunley owns the world's record for largest handdrawn maze: two feet by more than five hundred feet. It was her quarantine project. The maze, which helped raise money for charity, took more than three months and three hundred Sharpies.

I don't have room to print that maze, but here's another one of Michelle's works called "Path to Giza." Warning: one classic hack for solving pencil mazes is to start at the end and work backward. It's often easier, because the maze makers often draw their mazes from the entrance to the exit, and inadvertently frontload the choices. Michelle says she avoids that, so no need to try that strategy here. (More of her mazes and books can be found at <u>www.boggessart.com</u>).



#### Thinking Outside the Box

The phrase "thinking outside of the box" wasn't always a cliché. The origin of the phrase is an actual puzzle: Connect all the dots in this diagram using just four straight lines:



### **Reverse Psychology**

Fill in the blank in this puzzle. Hint: Turn the page upside down to see what it reveals.



### Matchstick Puzzles

Matchsticks have been a puzzle staple since at least the 1800s. Here is one from *The Moscow Puzzles* by Boris A. Kordemsky (1956), the most popular puzzle book in the history of the Soviet Union.



Correct the equation by shifting just one match.

## Cut the Cake

Cake-cutting (or pie-cutting or pizza-cutting) problems are a genre that can get surprisingly complex, sometimes necessitating higher math. Here's a classic that doesn't require calculus:

You have a birthday cake and have to cut it into 8 equal pieces by making only 3 cuts.



#### Which One Doesn't Belong?

Some of my favorite puzzles ever were created by my then-four-year-old son Lucas, who would play "Which one doesn't belong," but only give me a choice of two objects. "Which one doesn't belong: a baseball or a lamp?" If I said baseball, Lucas would tell me it was a lamp. And vice versa. I admired his surrealist take.

A few years later, my son's such grade math teacher, Inanna Donnelley, gave her students which-one-doesn't-belong puzzles that were just as innovative. In these puzzles, there are multiple correct solutions. For instance, in the example below, 8, 10, 12 doesn't belong because it's the only set of numbers that doesn't fit into a Pythagorean equation.

But you can also make an argument for any of the other sets ( solutions see page TK). Many in the puzzle world consider a problem with multiple solutions to be broken. But I embrace the idea as an exercise in creativity.

3, 4, 5	6.9, √84.64, 11.5
8, 10, 12	5, 12, 13

#### **Kryptos**

Kryptos is one of the most famous unsolved puzzles in the world. In 1988, the CIA commissioned a Maryland-based artist named Jim Sanborn to create a sculpture for its expanding headquarters. The agency wanted to install some art that would be relevant to its mission of cracking secrets. Sanborn's sculpture, Kryptos (Greek for "hidden"), was unveiled in 1990, located in a courtyard abutting the CIA cafeteria.

Kryptos is a wavy wall of copper about twenty feet long and twelve feet high. Into the copper, Sanborn has carved about eighteen hundred seemingly random letters and four question marks. It's a code, a secret message. No one knows the solution except Sanborn and possibly the former director of the CIA (Sanborn has hinted he didn't tell the director everything). Thirty years later, the code has not been fully cracked—even by the CIA itself. There Kryptos remains, right in the CIA's backyard, silently taunting the agents.



OBKR UOXOGHULBSOLIFBBWFLRVQQPRNGKSSO TWTQSJQSSEKZZWATJKLUDIAWINFBNYP VTTMZFPKWGDKZXTJCDIGKUHUAUEKCAR

### The Kryptos Expert

Elonka Dunin, who runs the most popular Kryptos website. She's written multiple books and articles on cryptography and is the inspiration for a character in a novel by *The Da Vinci Code* author Dan Brown (the character's name is Nola Kaye, a scrambled form of Elonka).



# Zig Zag Cipher

Zig Zag ciphers rely on a secret arrangement of the letters. Here's a message written using the Zig Zag method.

### ${\tt TPTEBELEDPRPEADVADUTRPESSNHLADANSSAEE}$

The solution—or plaintext, as it's called—is revealed only after you arrange the letters in a predetermined way and read them in a zigzag direction.

Т				Р				Т				E				В				Ε				L				Ε				D				Ρ
	R		Ρ		Ε		А		D		V		А		D		U		Т		R		Ρ		Ε		S		S		Ν		Н		L	
		А				D				А				Ν				S				S				А				Ε				Ε		

The message here is:

"Trapped at Dave and Buster's. Please send help."

#### **Ben Bass**

Ben Bass is the official cryptogrammist for *The New York Times*. His cryptograms, which appear twice weekly in the printed version of the paper, began during the early months of the pandemic. With no concerts or Broadway shows to cover, the *Times*'s arts section needed to fill pages. Puzzles came to the rescue. Will Shortz asked Ben—a lawyer who has written cryptograms for *The Enigma*—if he could hire him to create ciphers for the *Times*. "I felt like a winning lottery ticket landed in my lap," Ben says. "I would have paid them!" (Ben tweets puzzle-related thoughts at @BenBassBeyond).

## a) PAPYIP CY OKB JZAG YOPOB DKJYB ZPUB QPZ TB OGWBH JZ JZB VJD JX P IBGTJPVH.

- b) VNWU CYMFB'I YFTNQ "JA BMW'L WAAB WM ABPQZLNMW" NI Z IAYC-BACAZLNWK ZTKPDAWL
- c) RWKW JYUWP PQEZQ JFQTP RWKW JYUWP PQEZQ JFQTP, KAORZ IYVE PQEZQ JFQTP FQEW. VRQZ QKW ZRW YIIP?
- d) UXJMUX PKGCNVUQJV'G LJJTA XUUVJU MXINYX NVIRFSXS QCNG NVGQMFIQNJV: "QKGQX EMXZFXVQRA."

#### **Edgar Allan Poe's Ciphers**

Edgar Allan Poe was a lover of ciphers, and he included one in the plot of his short story *The Gold-Bug*. But he went further than that. He challenged his readers to stump him. In an 1840 article in *Alexander's Weekly Messenger*, a Pennsylvania newspaper, Poe boasted he could unlock any substitution cipher. Over the following months, Poe claimed to have solved one hundred reader-submitted ciphers—and he was hilariously cocky about it, saying, for instance, one gave him "no trouble whatever."

When Poe announced he was ending the challenge he printed two additional ciphers from a reader. Poe claimed he had solved them—but never printed the solutions. It took cipher fans more than 150 years to crack, which they finally did in 1992 and 2000 (the results were pastoral passages about nature, "sultry" afternoons, and "delicious breezes," which I can't imagine the macabre Poe could have liked).

Here's an example of a reader's cipher that Poe solved for his newspaper column. Poe pointed out several mistakes made by the man who sent in the cipher—who identified himself only as "H." I've corrected as many mistakes I could find.

#### 850;?9

n8338d-9? 9 2ad: 385 ?† sod-0 as 3 -86a5: -8x853795: 37od: h-8shn 3a s9d?8d-?† 0og37 -8x853795: sod-3 9 ?o-67o8xah-950?9n ?† 50537 -8x853795: 0sod-3 378 n9338d-858?† ?† 38537 -8x85370-?† sos37 95: sod-3 -h!!ad3nos8 sahd37 -8x853795: sdho3 sahd37 og37 0-9 ?† 95: 80;737 9 !a28dshn 0o?!n8?853 ?† 27an8 05:06938-9 20 - 8?95

### The NASA Code

The Mars Perseverance rover launched in July 2020 with several puzzles and ciphers on board. See if you can find the three-word message encoded on this aluminum plate:



#### The Hardest Visual Puzzle Ever

In the spring of 2020, *The Baltimore Sun* printed what might be the greatest correction in newspaper history:

The images in the "Spot the difference" feature in the Sunday, April 26, editions were mistakenly the same image and not in fact different. *The Baltimore Sun* regrets the error.



#### Where's Waldo's Ancestor

One of the founders of the spot-the-hidden image genre was was a sixteenth-century Flemish painter named Pieter Bruegel the Elder.

Bruegel specialized in elaborate crowd scenes with all sorts of hard-to-spot Easter eggs. My favorite Bruegel painting is called "Netherlandish Proverbs," in which Bruegel has hidden 112 literal depictions of proverbs. Can you spot the image of a man in a river "swimming against the tide?" Or the knight with a knife clenched in his mouth, representing "armed to the teeth?"

Those idioms have rough equivalents in modern English. But many old Dutch sayings are unique to their time. The Dutch seemed particularly obsessed with scatological expressions. Bruegel's painting includes depictions of:

"Horse droppings are not figs" (meaning: don't be fooled by appearances).

"A man who eats fire will poop out sparks" (don't be surprised when a dangerous venture goes awry).

"They both poop from the same hole" (they are close friends).

"He poops on the world" (he despises everything).





## **Currier and Ives Etching**

The nineteenth-century engravers Currier and Ives higher eanimals in their etchings. The 1872 image below contains an obscured horse, lamb, wild boar, and several human faces:



#### Al Hirschfeld

As a kid, I spent many happy hours searching Al Hirschfeld's illustrations in Ele New York Times. He was famous for hiding his daughter's name, "Nina," in the folds of clothing or eyebrows of his celebrity drawings. The Meryl Streep image below has three hidden Ninas:



© The Al Hirschfeld Foundation. AlHirschfeldFoundation.org

#### Where's Waldo?

In 1987, artist Martin Handford released the first "Where's Waldo" book. It has spawned dozens of sequels, an animated show, a world record of 4,626 people dressed as Waldo in one place at an amusement park in Japan, and many parodies (such as the one pictured on this page).



Waldo finds himself

## The Last Supper

My art historian friend Noah Charney says "Most of what's in *The Da Vinci Code* is bullshit." For instance, in "The Last Supper," St. John is St. John, not a sneakily disguised Mary Magdalen.



### Masquerade

Masquerade was a 1979 book by the British artist Kit Williams. It's a series of detailed and fantastical images—a man with rabbit ears and a violin, the Sun dancing with the Moon, and so forth. The paintings contained clues to the location of a real-life treasure buried somewhere in England: a golden rabbit about the size of a paperback book, insured for  $\pounds100,000$ .



COURTESY OF KIT WILLIAMS

#### The Secret

A 1982 book called the Secret by Byron Preiss contains clues to twelve buried treasures around the United States and Canada—little boxes containing precious or semiprecious gems. He hid clues to the treasures in twelve paintings and twelve cryptic poems.

So far, three treasures have been found: one in Cleveland, one in Chicago, and, most recently, one in 2019 in Boston. That leaves nine for treasure hunters to obsess over.



### The Face/Vase Illusion

The face/vase illusion was created by Danish psychologist Edgar John Rubin, and it's an example of foreground/background illusions. The perspective-switch illusion comes in many varieties: Rabbit or duck? A wizened old lady or attractive young glamour girl? The letters *FedEx* or a white arrow?



#### The Ebbinghaus Illusion

Which of the black circles is bigger? The one on the left or the one on the right. The answer to the puzzle is that both circles are the same size. The black circle on the left just appears to be smaller because the surrounding circles are so big and imposing.

The illusion was created by psychologist Hermann Ebbinghaus to show just how important context is. Our perceptions are not pure. They change depending on what we compare the object to. It's the visual representation of the phrase "It's all relative."



#### **Hidden Logos**

In the 1980s, there was a rumor that the old Procter & Gamble logo of a moon with stars contained hidden Satanic symbolism (the moon's beard hid a 666, for instance). Of course, this was hogwash. But there are at least one hundred instances of corporations hiding much less controversial secrets in their logos. See if you can find the hidden images in these logos.



# The Missing Square Puzzle

This puzzle is credited to magician Paul Curry, who created it in 1953. Where did the square go?



### The Soviet Camping Puzzle

Here's a great visual puzzle given to Soviet students in the 1980s. The questions (translated) are below.



- a) How many tourists are staying at this camp?
- b) When did they arrive: Today or a few days ago?
- c) How did they get here?
- d) How far away is the closest town?
- e) Where does the wind blow: From the north or from the south?
- f) What time of day is it?
- g) Where did Alex go?
- h) Who was on duty yesterday? (Give their name)
- i) What day is today?

#### **Bongard Problems**

The four puzzles that follow are not your average spot-the-difference puzzles. They are called Bongard problems, and eddel, Escher, Bach author Douglas Hofstadter wrote that "the skill of solving Bongard problems lies very close to the core of 'pure' intelligence, if there is such a thing."

The Bongard problems were invented by Russian computer scientist Mikhail Moiseevich Bongard in the 1960s. The idea is that the six diagrams on the left have a common factor, attribute, or pattern lacking in the six diagrams on the right. You have to figure out what that difference is.

One method to figuring this out is similar to the scientific method—you come up with a hypothesis and look for confirming and disconfirming evidence. The problems have been used in the development of artificial intelligence.

Here's a relatively trivial example. What is the difference between the left and right sides?



Answer: The shapes on the left are outlines, and those on the right are solid black. Here are some more challenging Bongard puzzles.







#### Sam Loyd's Bicycle Puzzle

You remember Sam Loyd, the brilliant but untrustworthy nineteenth-century puzzlemaster? One of Loyd's most famous illusions, which sold more than ten million copies, was called "Get Off the Earth." It was an illustration of the globe, with thirteen men dressed in stereotypically Chinese clothing. The drawing was on a disk that rotated a little bit. If you rotated it one way, one of the men disappeared. The image is racist, so I'm not going to print it here. But Loyd did create less offensive versions, including this bicycle-themed one.

Turn the disc so the arrow points to A—and count 13 boys.

Then move the arrow to B—and there are only 12 boys in view.

Which boy has vanished? Where did he go? (See answer at bottom of this document.)



The secret is that the thirteenth man is created from the bisected fea-tures of the other twelve men. So the face, for instance, in the fourth man becomes a face for both the fourth and eleventh man.

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### The Ultimate Alphabet

In 1986, artist Mike Wilks published perhaps the most elaborate visual hunt in history. His book, *The Ultimate Alphabet*, contains twenty-six paintings, one for every letter, each containing hundreds of objects that start with that letter. In total, there are 7,777 objects—with 1,234 alone for the letter S, pictured above. compess of mike wilks and pomegranate communications, inc.



COURTESY OF MIKE WILKS AND POMEGRANATE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

#### The Hidden Pelican





Medieval and Renaissance art is replete with hidden symbols. The strangest, in my opinion, is the pelican, which is a symbol for Jesus. Some medieval bird scientists believed quite wrongly that pelicans were vengeful birds who ate their young. But they also believed pelicans would feel remorse three days later, and would tear open their own body and revive the baby pelican by feeding it their own blood. At the time, the pelican's alleged behavior was seen as a metaphor for Jesus's resurrection three days after his death. I'm pretty sure this is the weirdest bird-related belief I've ever encountered, not counting the idea that storks are somehow involved in human reproduction. Here's an example from the stained-glass window of an Italian church. COURTESY OF WOLFGANG MORODER

#### **Puzzles for Science**

California-based scientist Elisabeth Bik spends her days playing a high-stakes version of spot-the-difference or spot-the-similarity. Bik is a crusader against scientific fraud. Apparently, some biologists insert duplicated or doctored images into their studies to make their data look more convincing. Bik's efforts have resulted in more than 500 retractions. She shares them as puzzles on Twitter at @MicrobiomDigest. Here's one that is relatively easy: The image purports to show four distinct cell colonies. But actually, there are only two distinct colonies. The other images are duplicates. Can you find the pairs that match?



## The Magic Square

The great-grandparent of Sudokus can be traced back at least to 190 B.C.E. in China. It's called the Magic Square, and according to the ancient myth, it was first found on the shell of a mystical turtle. Here's one of the first Magic Squares ever created:

16	3	2	13
5	10	11	8
9	6	7	12
4	15	14	1

## Ben Franklin's Mega-Magic Square

Ben Franklin was a fan of the form. When not founding the first American post office or inventing swim fins (look it up!), Franklin created, as he put it, the "most magically magical of any magic square ever made by a magician." It appeared in *Gentlemen's Magazine* in 1768.

200	217	232	249	8	25	40	57	72	89	104	121	136	153	168	185
58	39	26	7	250	231	218	199	186	167	154	135	122	103	90	71
198	219	230	251	6	27	38	59	70	91	102	123	134	155	166	187
60	37	28	5	252	229	220	197	188	165	156	133	184	101	92	69
201	216	233	248	9	24	41	56	73	88	105	120	137	152	169	184
55	42	23	10	247	234	215	202	183	170	151	138	119	106	87	74
203	214	235	246	11	22	43	54	75	86	107	118	139	150	171	182
53	44	21	12	245	236	213	204	181	172	149	140	117	108	85	76
205	212	237	244	13	20	45	52	77	84	109	116	141	148	173	180
51	46	19	14	243	238	211	206	179	174	147	142	115	110	83	78
207	210	239	242	15	18	47	50	79	82	111	114	143	146	175	178
49	48	17	16	241	240	209	208	177	176	145	144	113	112	81	80
196	221	228	253	4	29	36	61	68	93	100	125	132	157	164	189
62	35	30	3	254	227	222	195	190	163	158	131	126	99	94	67
194	223	226	255	2	31	34	63	66	95	98	127	130	159	162	191
64	33	32	1	256	225	224	193	192	161	160	129	128	97	96	65

#### The Hardest KenKen

This supersized 9-by-9 grid is one of the hardest KenKens ever, along with the rules:

- 1. In a 9 x 9 grid, you can only use the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9.
- 2. No numbers may repeat in any row or column. (Every allowable number must appear in every row and column.)
- 3. Each "cage" (region bounded by a heavy border) contains a "target number" and usually an arithmetic operation. You must fill that cage with numbers (in any order) that reach the target using the specified arithmetic operation.

	8		17	10		8		
7		6		9	11		11	_
21					14	13		
21		15					14	_
16	12		12		22			
	19		20	17		15	8	
	23							
	<b></b>		21	<b> </b>			24	┥
	24			12				
	7 21 21 16	8       7       21       21       16       12       19       23       24	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	8       17       10       8         7       6       9       11         21       1       1       14         21       15       1       14         16       12       12       22         19       20       17       15         23       1       15       15         21       23       1       15         21       23       1       15         21       23       1       15         21       23       1       12       15         21       23       1       12       15         21       23       1       12       15         24       12       12       12       12	8       17       10       8         7       6       9       11       11         21       1       14       13       14         21       15       1       14       14         16       12       12       22       14         19       20       17       15       8         23       11       15       14       15         24       12       12       24       24

### **Number Place**

Here is the very first Sudoku ever created. Only it wasn't called Sudoku. This is the "Number Place" puzzle that appeared in a 1979 issue of *Dell* puzzle magazine. Its creator, Howard Garns, died before his invention went viral.



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### An Elegant Sudoku

You can go online and find the allegedly hardest Sudoku ever (The AI Escargot). But honestly, it's a slog to finish. Instead, I asked Sudoku master Thomas Snyder to send me a challenging-but-still-fun puzzle. This is from his book *The Art of Sudoku*, which features puzzles with aesthetically pleasing patterns.

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

# The First KenKen

Here is the first KenKen that Miyamoto created for his students.

6			7	
8	7	5		
				noto
	7			opyright Tetsuya Miyaı
#### **Star Battle**

There are dozens of variations on the Japanese grid puzzle. This one is called "Star Battle" and was popularized by Jim Bumgardner, who goes by the puzzle name Krazydad.

Krazydad explains the rules: In these puzzles, each row, column, and bolded region must contain exactly one star. The stars can't touch each other, not even diagonally. A more advanced version with two stars in each region sometimes goes by the name "Two Not Touch."

				rdad
				17971
				, of l
				rteer

#### Sample Chess Puzzle

A chess problem consists of a particular arrangement of Black and White pieces on the board. The solver's job is to figure out how White can checkmate Black in a specified number of moves—could be one move, or two, or even fifty-four.

Here's a pretty basic example. In this problem, it's White's turn and White's goal is to checkmate Black in just one move.



# Sample Chess Puzzle Solution

Answer: Move the White rook one space north, to space g8.



#### The Hardest Mate in One Puzzle

This little nightmare was composed by Leonid Kubbel. You only have to move one white piece to checkmate black. But there are a baffling number of traps.



White to Move and Mate in One Note: In chess problems, White moves its pawns North, and Black moves pawns South. For solution see page 312.

#### The Grotesque

Grotesques are the absurdist jokes of the chess world. In a Grotesque, you're presented a board dominated by Black—an ocean of Black pieces and just a couple of White pieces. This Grotesque was written in 1922 by a Hungarian composer named Ottó Bláthy. White to move and mate in many moves.



White to Move and Mate in Several Moves

# Kasparov

Garry Kasparov teaching me about chess puzzles.



#### **Guarini's Problem**

Here's one of the earliest chess puzzles, first published in 1512. Called Guarini's problem, it is set up on a simplified board of 3 x 3. The idea is to switch the positions of the knights. The Black knights should end up where the White knights are, and vice versa. You can move them in any order (meaning you can move two White knights in a row).



#### A Manageable Problem



As a reminder, White moves its pawns North, and Black moves pawns South.

White to Move and Mate in One



White to Move and Mate in One

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# Nabokov's Problem

Here's a problem the novelist wrote in 1969.



White to Move and Mate in Three Turns

#### Sam Loyd's Excelsior Problem

Sam Loyd started his career writing chess problems. Here called "Excelsior," and it was created in 1861 on a dare. The idea was to have the least likely piece deliver the checkmate.



White to Move and Mate in Five Turns

## A Kasparyan Problem

My tutor Cyrus thinks the problems by Russian Genrikh Kasparyan are the hardest ever created. If you want to torture yourself, be my guest!



White to Move and Draw in Several Turns

#### **Helpmate Problem**

Chess problems have recently taken a turn for the surreal. Problematists are getting creative. There are chess problems in which the flat board is replaced by a cylindrical chess board. There are fairy problems, in which pieces are granted magical powers—for instance, a rook might be able to fly over pawns.

There's also a genre called helpmate problems. In these scenarios, the Black and White pieces work together to try to achieve a checkmate.

"I hate those," says Cyrus. "That's not the way chess is supposed to work."

I disagree with Cyrus here. I kind of like the spirit of cooperation. Why shouldn't Black and White be allies? Does chess always have to be such a zero-sum cutthroat operation? Why can't they work out their differences?



Black to Move, Then White Mates in One

Chess diagrams by Annika Robbins

# Japanese Puzzle Box

These beautiful and intricate puzzles started in Japan, and have become a worldwide craze.



### Chris Ramsay

In YouTube videos watched by millions, magician Chris Ramsay opens puzzle boxes, including this one that cost \$30,000.



COURTESY OF CHRIS RAMSAY

#### The Die Box

One of the first puzzles designed by master Akio Kamei. To solve it, you have to turn the die's sides from one to two to three, and so on. On six, the box will open up. When you turn the die, you are causing a small steel ball inside the box to make its way through a maze to release a latch.



# The Coffee Cup Puzzle

Another from pioneer Kamei. The top of the coffee is locked. Your job is to use the sugar cubes and spoon and ingenuity to open it up.



COURTESY OF STEVE CANFIELD

## The Lotus

A gorgeous puzzle box called "Lotus" from designer Kagen Sound.



COURTESY OF KAGEN SOUND

#### Aronofsky's Desk

This is a puzzle desk designed by Kagen for film direction Darren Araonofsky. The desk contains twenty-two puzzles, and it took Darren and his son months to solve. On the top is a panel of sliding wooden slats that look like a maze. Move the slats in the right order, and it turns into a checkerboard, which pops open a drawer.

There are puzzles inside each drawer that allow you to open other drawers. The desk isn't ideal if you're in a hurry to find a stapler, but Aronofsky says he loves writing screenplays on it.

But wait, the desk has another level: when you solve all the puzzles, the desk turns into a wooden pipe organ that plays one of Aronofsky's favorite songs, Irving Berlin's "Blue Skies." The notes play when you pull the drawers.

Hold on, there's more! The pipe organ is actually similar to a programmable computer. You can rearrange the pegs in a wooden motherboard and it will play a different song.

Despite the fact that it almost drove him insane, Kagen says he's glad he made it. "I'll get emails from Darren, like 'David Blaine loves it,' or 'Mike D from the Beastie Boys thinks it's great.' It makes my day."



# The Rune Cube

Another demonic puzzle from Kagen Sound.



#### The Sleeping Beauty Problem

Sleeping Beauty volunteers to undergo the following experiment and is told all of the following details: On Sunday she will be put to sleep. Once or twice, during the experiment, Sleeping Beauty will be awakened, interviewed, and put back to sleep with an amnesia-inducing drug that makes her forget that awakening. A fair coin will be tossed to determine which experimental procedure to undertake:

- If the coin comes up heads, Sleeping Beauty will be awakened and interviewed on Monday only.
- If the coin comes up tails, she will be awakened and interviewed on Monday and Tuesday.

In either case, she will be awakened on Wednesday without interview and the experiment ends.

Any time Sleeping Beauty is awakened and interviewed she will not be able to tell which day it is or whether she has been awakened before. During the interview Sleeping Beauty is asked: "What is your credence now for the proposition that the coin landed heads?"



#### WWII Bletchley Cryptic

A puzzle that (helped) save the world. In 1942, the British newspaper *The Daily Telegraph* held a cryptic contest at its offices. Competitors who solved the cryptic in less than twelve minutes apparently received a letter offering them a job at the Bletchley Park codebreaking operation. The puzzle was a secret recruiting tool to find brilliant brains to help crack the Nazi's Enigma code.



#### Across

- 1. A Stage company (6)
- 4. The direct route preferred by the Roundheads (5,3)
- 9. One of the ever-greens (6)
- 10. Scented (8)
- 12. Course with an apt finish (5)
- **13.** Much that could be got from a timber merchant (5.4)
- **15.** We have nothing and are in debt (3)
- 16. Pretend (5)
- 17. Is this town ready for a flood? (6)
- 22. The little fellow has some beer; it makes me lose colour, I say (6)
- **24.** Fashion of a famous French family (5)
- 27. Tree (3)
- 28. One might of course use this tool to core an apple (6,3)
- 31. Once used for unofficial currency (5)
- 32. Those well brought up help these over stiles (4,4)
- **33.** A sport in a hurry (6)
- 34. Is the workshop that turns out this part of a motor a hush-hush affair? (8)
- 35. An illumination functioning (6)

#### Down

- 1. Official instruction not to forget the servants (8)
- 2. Said to be a remedy for a burn (5,3)
- 3. Kind of alias (9)
- 5. A disagreeable company (5)
- 6. Debtors may have to this money for their debts unless of course their creditors do it to the debts (5)
- 7. Boat that should be able to suit anyone (6)
- 8. Gear (6)
- **11.** Business with the end in sight (6)
- 14. The right sort of woman to start a dame school (3)
- 18. The "war" (anag.) (6)
- 10. The war (anag.) (C
- **19.** When hammering take care not to hit this (5,4) **20.** Making sound as a bell (8)
- 20. Waking sound as a bell (8)
- 21. Half a fortnight of old (8)23. Bird, dish or coin (3)
- **25.** This sign of the Zodiac has no connection with the Fishes (6)
- **26.** A preservative of teeth (6)
- 26. A preservative of teeth
- 29. Famous sculptor (5)
- $\textbf{30. This part of the locomotive engine would sound familiar to the golfer (5)$

© Telegraph Media Group Limited 1942

#### Utah WWII Crossword

A puzzle that almost ruined the world. Well, maybe. This puzzle appeared in *The Telegraph* in the days preceding D-Day. The answers contained a series of code words related to the top-secret invasion. UTAH is the code name for one of the beaches the Allies planned to overtake. Other crosswords contained OMAHA (another beach), MULBERRY (a harbor), NEPTUNE (the code name for the naval phase), and most suspicious of all, OVERLORD, clued as "Bigwig," which was the code name for D-Day itself. The British intelligence agency became alarmed and arrested the crossword maker-a school headmaster named Leonard Dawe. Dawe was interrogated extensively, but he was eventually released after the government apparently decided it was just an odd coincidence. Years later, there was speculation it wasn't a coincidence after all. One theory claims Dawe's students, who helped him construct the crosswords, overheard the words when chatting with soldiers stationed nearby.

#### ACROSS

1 A cause of postscripts (13) 16 Definite (7) **10** Very attentive commonly **18** Achievement that the (two words-3,4) 11 A fool's weapon (7) **12** But this isn't to be bought **19** Proper behaviour (7) at this shop (6) 15 Foils start thus (two

words-3.3) guardians of the Tower always have at heart (4) 22 Part of one's last will and 30 Fifty fifty (7) testament (4) 24 This knight of old had a fair start (7) 26 Little Samuel has got something from the pantry to 2 This probably has a lateen

31 White wine (7) 33 "Intense matter"

#### DOWN

20 But cook has a practical make a boat (6) sail (7) use for this old weapon (4) 27 The ceremonious tart (6) 3 What all will be when the cease fire sounds (6) 4 Try the clue for 22 across (4)5 Derby winner or preposition (4)10 11 6 Systematically sorted (6) 7 When this loses its tail it doesn't grow another (7) 12 8 He rations the port among those who want it (13) 6 9 The ups and downs of business (three words-6,3,4) Ű T A H 13 Conference centre lately (7) 14 "Sleep rough" (7) 20 15 Lay (7) 21 Assess (7) 23 "Having drink taken" (7) 26 24 Many an oak-tree has this measurement (6) 25 This might make mad, sir (6) 30 31 28 This German Island sounds of alluvial origin (4) 29 The last Alice saw of the White Rabbit (4)

#### Operation

An image from the MIT Mystery Hunt puzzle "Operation." If you click on the cartoon's various body parts, up pops a video of real-life surgery. Real blood-and-guts close-ups.



B\_\_C K\_\_E

#### Doodlepalooza

Here is one of the puzzles I made for Watson Adventures. The instructions are:

Each drawing in Column A pairs with a drawing in Column B to represent a common phrase. Fill in the phrases to reveal the one-word answer.



#### Bobcat

Another one of the 152 puzzles at the 2020 MIT Mystery Hunt. As is customary, there are no instructions. The answer is a single word. Don't try it alone. Find a partner—or fifty. It was constructed by Justin Graham.



#### **Moderation Cup**

This is part of a genre called "puzzle jugs." If you fill the moderation cup, the liquid will just drain out. , the wine will flow into a hidden pipe inside the pot and all the wine will empty out. If you want the wine to stay inside, you can only fill the pot halfway.



Cross Section of the Moderation Cup. Fill to the level in B and you can drink it. Fill to the level in C and it will all siphon out. By Nevit Dilmen, courtesy of Creative Commons.

#### Tangram

The tangram is a square chopped up into seven shapes—triangles, a rhombus, and so forth. From these shapes, you must figure out how to make thousands of figures—birds, farmers, boats, you name it. When the tangram was exported from China to Europe in the early nineteenth century, it became one of the first puzzle fads in the West.





#### The Chinese Rings Puzzle

Wei Zhang (pictured) and Peter Rasmussen have a vast collection of Chinese puzzles, including this hairpin nine-rings puzzle, also from the Qing dynasty; and a nineteenthcentury set of tangram dishes. Courtesy of Wei Zhang, Peter Rasmussen, and the Classical Chinese Puzzle Foundation; photo by Niana Liu.



COURTESY OF WEI ZHANG, PETER RASMUSSEN, AND CLASSICAL CHINESE PUZZLE FOUNDATION

# Tower of Hanoi

The Tower of Hanoi puzzle. The goal is to move the disks from one rod to another, but the catch is: you cannot put a bigger disk on top of a smaller disk.



#### Jacobs' Ladder

The hardest puzzle in the history of the world. Or at least the most time-consuming. The goal is to remove the corkscrew rod from the column. To do so, you have to turn the pegs many times. As in 1,298,074,214,633,706,907,132,624,082,305,023 times. Pictured here with me and my son Lucas.



# The Puzzler Contest

For the official rules and details on *The Puzzler* contest, see thepuzzlerbook.com.

In the introduction, the authors have hidden a secret passcode that will give you access to a series of puzzles on the website thepuzzlerbook.com. The first reader to complete the contest will win \$10,000.

The contest can be accessed starting May 3, 2022, at noon Eastern U.S. time, using a password hidden in the introduction to this book. The introduction can be accessed for free at ajjacobs.com or thepuzzlerbook.com.

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. The contest begins May 3, 2022, and ends when the first correct answer is submitted, or May 3, 2023, whichever comes first. Open to U.S. residents 18 and older. Void where prohibited or restricted by law.

The contest was written by Greg Pliska, Matt Gruskin, Guy Jacobson, Tanis O'Connor, Gaby Weidling, and Max Woghiren.

# An Original Puzzle Hunt by Greg Pliska

You've tackled Babylonian riddles and World War II codes. Now it's time to return to the present with the official all-new original puzzle hunt by Greg Pliska. (The footnotes throughout this section are also courtesy of Greg.)

In the following pages, you will find a series of nineteen puzzles—each one themed to a chapter in the book. There's a crossword-themed puzzle, a Rubik's one, a chess one, and so on.

When solved, each of these puzzles will lead to a word or phrase. Sometimes the puzzle gives you that word or phrase directly; other times you extract a hint to what the final word or phrase is.

There will be a total of twenty answer words or phrases, all of which are essential to solving the final metapuzzle, located on page 288. (Note: Puzzle 12, Greeks vs. Romans, and Puzzle 13, Who Are We?, each lead to *two* separate answer words.)

To clarify: This is separate from the \$10,000 contest. You won't get any money for solving this series of puzzles, though you will get bragging rights and a lot of aha moments.

A few tips from Greg on how to maximize your enjoyment and success when solving these puzzles (or, indeed, any puzzles):

- It's okay to use references. More than anything, these puzzles rely upon lateral thinking, moments of inspiration, and careful analysis. But often they also depend upon facts or allusions with which you might not be familiar. If that happens, go look up the answer! It's not a final exam, it's not a competition; it's meant to be fun, and if you're stuck because you don't know the name of the 1942 Preakness winner, go websearch it.1
- If you're stuck, try looking at the puzzle a different way. If you're not getting anywhere, put the puzzle down, have a cup of coffee, go for a run, take a nap—anything to knock your brain out of the rut and hopefully put you on the road to inspiration.
- If you're still stuck, check the back of the book for hints, starting on page 319. Or visit our website, thepuzzlerbook.com, for more hints. Or ask a friend—sometimes two heads really are better than one.
- The title and the italicized text at the top of the page are clues. Ask yourself why we chose that title for the puzzle, or used that specific language in the italicized text (also known as flavortext). Those choices weren't random, and more often than not the specific language is meant to be a nudge toward the solution of the puzzle.2

<sup>1</sup> The winner of the 1942 Preakness Stakes was a horse named Alsab. Not knowing this fact (nor the name of the author of *Gil Blas*) is the reason I stared for five competition-losing minutes at a final-round puzzle at the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, where, of course, we weren't allowed to look things up.

<sup>2</sup> I once sat with one of my cleverest solving friends, Guy Jacobson—also a test solver for this book—to do a puzzle hunt called Intercoastal Altercations. The introductory flavor was all about a flock of birds that had dispersed across the country, and our job was to track down the various cities they'd gone to. Guy turned to me and said, "I bet the answer to the metapuzzle is PHOENIX." A couple hours later, after doing all the puzzles together, we solved the metapuzzle . . . whose answer was, indeed, PHOENIX.

- The puzzles can be solved in any order you want. With the exception of the final puzzle, the metapuzzle Big Secrets, which should be solved last.
- When you have a set of things, sometimes you take a letter from each one to spell the final answer. In an acrostic, you take the first letters of each word to spell another word. In some of these puzzles, there will be a number indicating which letter to take—it's not always the first!—to spell out your answer.
- Numbers in parentheses are your friends. When you see a clue like "Author AJ (6)" that number is an enumeration, an indicator of how long the answer is. In a few puzzles, you get both an enumeration and an indication of which letter you want to take, so "Puzzlemaker Pliska (2/4)" tells you to use the second letter of a four-letter answer (the R in GREG).
- Go to thepuzzlerbook.com for PDFs of puzzles. Two of the puzzles (the Rubik's Cube and the jigsaw puzzle) might be easier to solve in color. There are color PDFs of these available on the website. If you download and print the jigsaw puzzle, this will also save you from having to cut up your book with scissors!
- When all else fails . . . drop us a line via thepuzzlerbook.com website. We want you to be challenged, but we also want you to have fun. And if you've tried everything else and you're stuck—or if you think you've found an error or an ambiguity in a puzzle—let us know! We're here to help.

Puzzles by Greg Pliska https://exaltation-of-larks.com With Puzzle 16 by guest puzzlemaker Sara Goodchild (@sarathegood)

#### 1) GREG'S "THE PUZZLE OF PUZZLES" PUZZLE The "The Puzzle of Puzzles" Puzzle

In which the puzzlers are puzzled about the puzzle of what keeps us together.

- 1 African antelope
- 2 Common crossword clue for ERST
- 3 "\_\_\_\_\_ and away!"
- 4 Tourist destination in the Leeward Islands
- 5 Renowned Chinese classical pianist
- 6 Newsboy's shout
- 7 German spa town
- 8 Words before "brief candle" in a Shakespeare soliloquy
- 9 Dance move paired with the whip in "Watch Me"
- 10 Ramones member who played the bass

#### 2) GREG'S CROSSWORD-THEMED PUZZLE

#### **Data Error**

In which A.J. and G.P. appear together in a crossword puzzle for the first time!

ACROSS

- **1** Broadway title role originated by Heather Headley 5 Less-played part of a 45 10 Quiet before a storm 14 Related (to) 15 Eyeball-bending painting style of the 60s 16 Specialty 17 Arctic hazard 18 Bacall's love, informally 19 Symbol on a screen 20 "\_\_\_\_ alive!" 22 Winter mo. 23 Single-handedly 24 Enjoy a book 26 Earth goddess in the Ring Cycle 28 \_\_\_\_ de los Muertos 31 Went by 33 Ten percent, for an agent 36 Draft classification 38 \_\_\_\_ for Innocent (Grafton novel) 39 Added or removed powder 41 Some socks, after washing, or a description of twelve cells in this crossword (the 13th of which might describe the kind of error these represent) 44 Person with "I" trouble? 45 It crosses a st., in Manhattan 46 Early Ron Howard role **47** Yuletide beverage 48 Not too swift 51 \_-A-Mouse, early singjay stylist 52 Car horn sound 53 PC key 55 Curling or hurling, e.g. 58 Tolkien creature 60 Black Friday events 64 \_\_\_\_-Seltzer 65 Diarist Nin 67 Organ in tadpoles but not in frogs 68 Jazz pianist Allen or singer Halliwell 69 Bus station 70 Stone or Thompson of Cruella \_\_\_ Clayton Powell, Jr., New 71 York's first African-American Congressman 72 Sedative, for short
  - 73 Underpart of a plant or a tooth



#### DOWN

- **1** What over 91m Brits got in 2021
- 2 Company founded by Ingvar Kamprad
- **3** Nowitzki who played 21 seasons with the Mavericks
- 4 Lewis Black in Inside Out
- 5 Steal from
- 6 Having two stressed syllables, in poetry
- 7 Character in Othello or Aladdin
- 8 Takes the wheel
- 9 When the French fry?
- **10** Spelling bee winner Avantgarde
- 11 With the bow, in music
- 12 Boxer Spinks
- 13 Horse hair
- 21 Reason for an R rating, often
- 23 Make sense
- 25 Kinda
- 27 Most embarrassed
- 28 In 2021, 24 U.S. Senators
- 29 Montoya of The Princess Bride
- 30 Famous fabulist
- 32 Old-time expletive
- 33 Michael of R.E.M.

- 34 Like American Horror Story
- 35 Famous Ford failure
- 37 "What Kind of Fool \_\_\_\_?"
- 40 \_\_\_\_ Paulo, Brazil
- 42 Balance-sheet entry
- 43 Landlord's threat
- 49 Act before the headliner
- 50 12-mo. periods
- 52 Cranium contents
- 54 Beer variety
- 55 Extended yarn
- 56 Said "not guilty," perhaps
- 57 Gumbo ingredient
- 59 Valley known for its vineyards
- **61** Star's car
- 62 Ticklish Muppet
- 63 Czech or Slovak, e.g.
- 65 Big inits. in home security
- 66 R-V hook-up

#### 3) GREG'S RUBIK'S CUBE-THEMED PUZZLE *Rubik's 3 × 3 × 3*

#### In which we discover some colorful magic.

This unfolded Rubik's Cube has six faces with the traditional colors: white, green, red, blue, orange, and yellow. Combine the three-letter combinations (known as trigrams) to spell out four or five words or phrases related to each color. These words will be in alphabetical order as you string the trigrams to-gether; the box below tells you how long each word in each color-related set will be.

For example, BRE and ADC can be combined to make BREAD (which goes with white), leaving a C that starts the next white-related word, which is nine letters long.



Once you have figured out the words, place them into the Rubik's face of the appropriate color, one trigram per cell, to fill up the cube. We've started the white face for you.

When the cube is full, the remaining trigrams can be rearranged to spell a clue (5 6 6 4 7 5) to this puzzle's answer.

(You can also download a color version of this puzzle at thepuzzlerbook.com/rubiks.)
# 4) GREG'S ANAGRAM-THEMED PUZZLE *Flatfoots*

#### In which we investigate all kinds of dastardly wordplay.

National Puzzlers' League "flats" are a unique style of verse puzzle in which several words have been replaced by "cuewords," capitalized words that function as placeholders for the answer words.

Combine the six boxed answer words, in order, to form the clue for the anagram puzzle below.

#### 1. HOMOPHONE

Homophones are words that sound the same but are spelled differently, like *right* and *write*. Several of these homophones are borrowed from other languages.

I was born the wrong time and I've got a passé social attitude. Some songwriters saved me. I B them a real debt of gratitude. "A, Lady Be Good," wrote the Gershwins—I fully agree! It's good to drink deeply a snifter of fine C-de-vie! When Crosby and Kelly sing gaily the joys of D monde, I love to join in, for of Cole Porter's work I am fond. And nothing will send me like music from Irving Berlin. If "Top Hat" and tails is so wrong, well, I'll happily sin!

A = \_\_\_\_ B = \_\_\_\_ C = \_\_\_\_ D = \_\_\_\_

#### 2. PADLOCK

In this puzzle the last five letters of FIRST are the same as the first five letters of SECOND. When you remove those overlapping letters from both words—as if they overlapped and were "padlocked" together the remaining four letters (two from FIRST and two from SECOND) form THIRD. For example, RUSHING + SHINGLE = RULE.

Back in the '70s I was a FIRST, In mind-body-spirit was fully immersed. Tried Ram Dass and Buddha, and old Edgar Cayce, Theosophy, tantra and anything spacy. If you were a bettor you'd surely have SECOND That if it was kooky to me it'd've beckoned. What caused this behavior, this passion absurd? These fads filled a void in me, met some deep THIRD. Today I'm more grounded, these trends I've reversed, But back in the '70s I was a FIRST!

$FIRST = $ _	
SECOND	=
THIRD =	

#### 3. CURTAILMENT

A longer word (in this case a proper noun) has its last letter removed (curtailed) to make a new word.

"If a thing isn't yours, son, you cannot just take it!" Or so Putin's mother would scold her young Vlad. When Russia took LONG, though, no country could make it Retreat. It's a SHORT, but says Putin, "Too bad!"

SHORT = \_\_\_\_\_ LONG = \_\_\_\_\_

4. FIRST-LETTER CHANGE (LOON, MOON) DELETION (MOST, MOT)

In a first-letter change, the first letter of a word is changed to another to form a new word. In a deletion, one letter is deleted from inside a word to form a new word.

While MOST and LOON are MOT in nature Friendship isn't out of MOON, Like when they're animated creatures In that 80's Disney 'toon.

MOST = \_\_\_\_\_ MOT = \_\_\_\_\_ LOON = \_\_\_\_\_ MOON = \_\_\_\_\_

#### 5. PROGRESSIVE TRANSDELETION

The title sounds complicated, but the wordplay isn't. Start with a seven-letter word, in this case a capitalized word. Remove one letter and rearrange the rest to make a new word. Continue removing a letter, then rearranging, to form a series of new words, the last of which is three letters long. (The five-letter word is a proper noun; the six-letter answer is two words, often capitalized.)

Although you won a Tony for The Rink, And Spider Woman was your second score, It's West Side Story that's your biggest THREE. For sixty years you've scratched your theater FOUR. Dear FIVE Rivera, you should take a break! Try yoga, SIX, Qigong—or go abroad, Sip SEVEN 'neath a setting Tuscan sun. Such well-earned recreation we'd applaud!

#### 6. REPEATED LETTER CHANGE

Every instance of a letter that appears more than once in the first word is changed to a new letter to form the second.

My books are alphabetical By SECOND on my shelf. To mix them is heretical. I check them all myself. Today I see a lack—oy! What to do? I fear the worst! 'Twixt Beowulf and Black Boy Something's missing. It's The FIRST!

FIRST = \_\_\_\_\_ SECOND = \_\_\_\_\_

ANAGRAM

Clue, formed from the boxed answer words above:

!					
А	THIRD	SHORT	MOT	THREE	SECOND

This is a clue to a five-word '90s television show. The letters in the clue can be rearranged to form the title of that show, which is \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_.

## 5) GREG'S REBUS-THEMED PUZZLE *Signs and Symbols*

## In which we attempt to interpret the signs.

The images below clue eleven words or phrases that have something in common. Solve each rebus, then take the indicated letters to spell out a clue to this puzzle's final answer.

The numbers below each rebus indicate which letter to take out of the total length of the word. For example, (2/6) under the first rebus indicates you need the second letter of a six-letter word.



#### 6) GREG'S JIGSAW-THEMED PUZZLE

#### A Perfect Match

#### In which even frenemies can go glamping and chillax.

(You can download a color version of this puzzle at thepuzzlerbook.com/jigsaw.)

On the following page are twelve square puzzle pieces, with an image on each edge. The numbers in parentheses indicate the lengths of the words clued by the images.

Cut out and reassemble the pieces in a  $4 \times 3$  grid so that each pair of bordering images clues a pair of words that can form a common portmanteau, a word that blends the sounds and meanings of two other words. For example, *friend* and *enemy* can combine to make *freenemy*.

There are seventeen portmanteau pairs in the completed grid. We've given you brief descriptions of each one, listed below in alphabetical order of the portmanteau. When the pieces are properly assembled, the words clued by the images on the outer perimeter will spell out a message that clues the final answer to this puzzle.

Portmanteau descriptions (in alphabetical order by answer):

- Transportation service
- Cocktail
- Political term
- Children's novel series
- Drink brand
- Unit of time
- U.S. federal holiday
- Dog breed
- Game and entertainment franchise
- Dessert
- Online game platform
- Film title
- Meat product
- Utensil
- Vegetable
- Sports term
- Reviews website and app



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#### 7) GREG'S MAZE-THEMED PUZZLE

#### We Aim to Please

#### In which we thread our way through several mazes but get all knotted up.

In each maze below find the shortest route—the one that traverses the fewest number of squares between the two heavy-bordered cells, starting at the arrow and ending at the target. Begin in the direction of the starting arrow and move from square to square according to the following rules:

**Mazes 1–3:** You may move to any square in the direction of the arrow you are standing on, visiting each square you pass through along the way. In cells with two arrows you may go in either direction.

Mazes 4–6: Same as 1–3, except that you must alternate black and white arrows.

**Maze 7:** You can only move <u>one</u> square in the direction of the arrow you are standing on. In cells with two arrows you may go in either direction.

We recommend marking your path by filling in each square you visit, including the first and last.











6.





#### 8) GREG'S MATH- AND LOGIC-THEMED PUZZLES

#### A. The Latest Fashion

#### In which it matters who goes when, and how much of what they show.

Five fashion designers (Bautista, Kwame, Meifeng, Nikita, Salman) revealed their latest designs this afternoon, each working with a single fabric (cashmere, corduroy, cotton, muslin, or taffeta). They presented each hour from one to five, and each showed a different number of outfits, from one to five each.

Using the five statements below, determine which designer had which time slot, and the number of outfits they showed in their chosen fabric. Then use all that information, reading row by row in the completed grid, to extract the final answer to this puzzle.

Тіме	Ναμε	No. of Outfits	Fabric
1:00			
2:00			
3:00			
4:00			
5:00			

- 1. Salman, who designs in cotton, showed twice as many outfits as the person before him, who designs in corduroy.
- 2. Nikita and Kwame (who never works with taffeta) showed six outfits between them, and one went immediately after the other.
- 3. The person showing cashmere debuted three hours after the person showing five outfits.
- 4. Bautista's time slot was the same as the number of outfits he showed, which was even.
- 5. There were more outfits in taffeta than in muslin.

#### **B.** Real Numbers

In which we do a little a-rhythm-etic on some hit singles.

For this puzzle, we began by compiling a list of some of our favorite songs that have at least one number in their titles. Then we abbreviated those titles, leaving the numbers intact but using only the first letter of each word. So, for example, "99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall" would be presented as 99 B O B O T W.

Finally, we replaced one letter or number from each abbreviated title with a blank. The characters that belong in those blanks will spell, in the given order, a clue to this puzzle's ten-letter solution. As an extra solving aid, we've given you a list of the artists—but in alphabetical order, not necessarily aligned with the songs they performed.

1 S F, 3 S	Ariana Grande
9   T	The Beatles
O 69	Bob Marley and the Wailers
0 17	Bryan Adams
3 L	Chicago
1 B T D	Dave Brubeck
50 W T Y L	The Four Seasons
O 1000 D	Jay-Z
99	Lynyrd Skynyrd
2 O 3 A B	Meat Loaf
G 3	Olivia Rodrigo
G B (500 M)	Panic! at the Disco
5	Paul Simon
W D 4 U	Prince
25 6 T 4	The Proclaimers
19th B	Queen
N A	The Rolling Stones
D A W	The Searchers
D 63 ( W A N)	Stevie Nicks
7	The White Stripes
L P N	Wilson Pickett

# 9) GREG'S CIPHER AND CODE-THEMED PUZZLE *Remix*

#### In which the rule is you have to figure out the rules.

We've taken eleven clues, removed the spacing and punctuation, then transformed each clue according to a particular rule. You must figure out the transformation rule and restore the original clue, then perform the same transformation on the clue answer to make a new word.

These eleven new words will have something in common. The numbers in parentheses indicate which letter to take from the new word, as well as how long that word is. (3/6), for example, indicates that you need the third letter of a six-letter word. The letters you extract will spell an apt two-word name.

- 1. CORNCTRLONDELTHEESCBLANKTAB (3/6)
- 2. TINGERXHOSECIGIITXASLISSGROMBSOSE (2/4)
- 3. GLYDEDOWNHYLLLYKELYNDSEYVONN (1/3)
- 4. PNOITATIPICERMGNIXIRNIAADNSWON (1/5)
- 5. USAUTRALIANILWIDOGDOROFRMAMFAOUSERMEYLTRSTEEPINLIE (1/6)
- 6. LZUNDMZUASUREEZUUALLING4ZU40SZUUAREYZURDS (5/5)
- 7. PRESIDENTPOFPMOSCOWPORPSTPPETERSBURG (4/8)
- 8. WODRIGHTTHTAIGHTCNAIGHTFOLLWOIGHTHIEVIGH TMASTREIGHTROIGHTNEVREIGHT (1/8)
- 9. PEOIBTOXPERITEATMENTPEAITRGET (4/10)
- 10. ANBCYDOEFMESTICFEGHLINE (5/5)
- 11. HAPPOBBITSHAPPOMEIAPPNLAPPORDOAPPFTAPPHERAPPINGS (5/8)

#### 10) GREG'S VISUAL PUZZLE

#### Border Crossings

In which we show that one thing can be in two places at the same time.

The outline maps of thirteen pairs of countries have been overlaid below with their capital cities overlapping. The names of those capitals have been similarly intermingled, with the letters of each capital remaining in order in the mashed-up result.

The names of the countries in each pair are the same length (ignoring spaces and punctuation). Once you've identified each pair of countries you can extract a letter from each pair to spell a phrase that is appropriate to what is going on here.

(Note: The countries in each pair are shown roughly to scale with each other, but not necessarily with other pairs.)





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#### 11) GREG'S SUDOKU- AND KENKEN-THEMED PUZZLES

#### **Coming to Terms**

In which our heroes reach agreement about a few things.

A.J. loves KenKen; Greg prefers Sudoku. But there are a few things they discover they can agree on, including that both puzzles are . . .

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

2/		2×	15×		840×		3/	
315×	72×		24+		42×			3+
				32×		48×		
		18×				30×		
3+		24×		18+	15+		24+	
30×		7-			17+			
	8-	60×	42×				29+	13+
21+				2-	D			
			27×		3+			

#### 12) GREG'S CHESS-THEMED PUZZLE *Greeks vs. Romans*

In which we decide: infight or insight?

(Note: This puzzle has two separate answers.)

The chessboard on the next page represents a competition between the Greeks, represented by the White knight, and the Romans, represented by the Black.

The two knights move according to normal chess rules, from square to square, gathering letters as they go. No square is landed upon more than once, and the two knights always move symmetrically relative to each other. So if the Black knight moves to the A, then the White knight moves to the V, and so on.

The letters landed upon by the White knight spell out the Roman clue phrase, which has a seven-letter answer.

The letters landed upon by the Black knight spell out the Greek clue phrase, which has a six-letter answer.

Н	Ε	E	Н	I	Ι	Ε	Ð
Α	Ρ	Т	R	Μ	I	W	L
Н	В	А	L	S	F	۷	Ι
L	Т	Е	E	Ν	Ν	L	0
С	Т	Ε	W	С	R	R	F
D	А	Α	Т	Ν	Н	А	А
0	Н	М	0	Ν	0		U
2	R	Ν	E	L	Н	I	R

ROMAN (White knight):

----- --- ---- ---- ----<sup>-</sup>--- -- ----

GREEK (Black knight):

# 13) greg's riddle-themed puzzle *Who Are We*?

#### In which the sum of the parts is two wholes.

Each riddle below clues a string of letters (word, abbreviation, suffix, et al.) whose length is in parentheses. String all the answers together to form a clue to this puzzle's **two** solutions.

- Together we're in your metabolism, Alone or in pairs, in your blood.
  Seen seaborne and found in lavabos, But never in liquid or mud. (3)
- 2. I'm drunk, I'm exciting, I'm not pitch-black.You enjoy my fine writing 'Til I go back. (3)
- Add me to a pot, I'll make a magical drink. Add me to your bill, you'll owe more than you think. Make a pass at me and with desire I'll fill, But wed me with Eros and it all goes downhill. (3)
- 4. It's surely this simple: our initial appearance.But then, at the end, we will make you adherents. (4)
- 5. Black or White, you've surely seenMe on the stage or on the screen.Higher than ten, I still bow to the Queen. (4)
- 6. She looks at a photo, a moment of thought, her Comment is "Brothers and sisters I've none, But that man's mother is my mother's daughter." Relation of that man to her? (That's the one!) (3)
- 7. Fanboys are here, but one of them's missing, Yet folks might not guess, for they don't always get it, Nor will it be easy, or that's what we're guessing, So read the first word here to never forget it. (3)
- 8. In 4/4 time, the speed of light? Around 100, copyright. (1)
- In South African capital your errand is done, While Capitol Hill Paul has randomly begun. (4)
- 10. Gobbled by the alligators, eaten by the swallows, Never in the deep end, always in the shallows.Exhibited in galleries, but never seen in zoos, Digitally captured, it's the answer that you'll choose. (3)

#### 14) GREG'S JAPANESE PUZZLE BOX-THEMED PUZZLE

#### Japanese Puzzle Boxes

#### In which we meet a famous manipulator of puzzle boxes.

Each column represents a set of items in the same category, with lines connecting boxes that contain the same letter. The arrows indicate the three places where a single word branches off, starting a new column for each new category it belongs to.

Start with JAPANESE, PUZZLE, and BOX and fill in the boxes until you determine the ten letters that make up this puzzle's final answer.

# **JAPANESE PUZZLE BOXES**





# 15) GREG'S CONTROVERSIAL PUZZLE-THEMED PUZZLE *Thirders and Halfers*

#### In which we take a hatchet to the Sleeping Beauty problem.

The clues below have been chopped up to represent two schools of thought regarding the Sleeping Beauty problem. The Thirders clues are in three parts, while the Halfers are in two. Reassemble the clues using one item from each column, then perform another connection process with the answers to make five more clues. These will lead you to your final answer.

(Note: The numbers in parentheses indicate the length of each answer.)

#### Thirders

1	French	а	today (4)
2	Lakers'	Antoine-	Leona (4)
3	Desegregation	definite	check (4)
4	Surgeon	in	karaoke (4)
5	Participate	lyric	Jerry (4)
6	Endorse	owner	Hippolyte (4)
7	NWA	pioneer	contraction (3)
8	"America"	Sudan,	article (3)

#### Halfers

1	500 in	(fish spuce)(3)
	500, 111	
2	Symbol for	a chair (3)
3	Opposite of	acid, chemically (4)
4	Event for	an ump's call (3)
5	Nam	carbon (1)
6	With "out"	Cinderella (4)
7	Took	coffee server (3)
8	Big	Fozzie (4)
9	Winter time zone in	Haile Selassie (3)
10	Royal title for	Nova Scotia (3)
11	Golfer's	Roman numerals (1)
12	Paddington or	shout (4)

#### 16) GREG'S CRYPTIC-THEMED PUZZLE

#### By guest constructor Sara Goodchild

#### **Transatlantic**

In which this originally British crossword type finds a home in the USA.

Five across clues have one word each that does not contribute to the wordplay or definition. Identify the extra words for a helpful instruction.

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				

#### Across

- **1** Doctor that is following mother bird (6)
- **4** Messy contents of bunk emptied (7)
- 9 Saint consumed these, say (5)
- 10 Cracked up prior to medley (9)
- **11** Sandler not in favor of northeastern firm (10)
- 12 "Use glue," answers 007 (4)
- **14** Make gold Marvel character pen (6) **15** Confection regimen complexity you in t
- **15** Confection regimen somehow gets you in the end(8)
- 18 Spooner's slim courage endorsed (8)
- **19** Mammal runs twice into dogs? (6)
- **21** Nintendo console includes full networking option (2-2)
- 23 Frauds blacken the French bronzes (10)
- **26** Another abridged novel: "The Drones" (9)
- 27 "Yellow" singer pursuing Oscar (5)
- **28** Traditional hunter rejected agent role (7)
- **29** Number of Rivendell denizens grasping essentially every clue
  - (6)

#### Down

- **1** MAC's reformulated top-quality, semi-rare cosmetic (7)
- **2** Missing finals, US territory sounded off with empty promise (9)
- **3** Song "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," for example, led by Instagram character in Greek (1,3,6)
- 4 Neglected chance after dropping in (8)
- 5 Wacky person, either way (4)
- 6 Initially miniature avatar running in overalls! (5)
- 7 Idly move griddle, getting pair of tweezers for half
- of grub (7)
  - 8 Hostilely express point (4)
- 13 Mail Elinor different lubricant (7,3)
- **16** Famous Russian environmentalist-politician welcomes composer at five (9)
- 17 Disgrace southern sweetheart wearing French designer (8)
- **18** Stupidly considers job joker offered up (5,2)
- **20** Dress rehearsal disturbed rest at university in Tennessee (4,3)

**22** In favor of surrounding lake with a group of plants (5)

- **24** Reportedly regretted lacking manners (4)
- **25** Climbing weed's termination (4)

#### 17) greg's infinite puzzle-themed puzzle

#### Skyscrapers of Hanoi

#### In which A.J. and Greg visit some of the world's most famous buildings.

This Skyscrapers of Hanoi puzzle has already been assembled, but the ring labels were left off. First answer the clues, which are sorted by answer length, and then assign each answer to a building based upon rules which are left for you to determine. (Hint: The rules will be related to the building or its name.) Once the rings are labeled appropriately, from longest up to shortest, take the indicated letter from each ring label to spell a clue to your final answer.



#### 18) GREG PLISKA'S PUZZLE HUNT-THEMED PUZZLE *Big Secrets*

In which A.J. and Greg learn the secret of successful puzzling.

(Note: This is the metapuzzle, which combines the answers to all the other original puzzles in the chapter.)

A.J. approaches his work with joyful exuberance, willing to step into the unknown without fear of failure or embarrassment. Greg, on the other hand, is a clever trickster, conjuring mental delights from thin air. Together, they have set out to discover what kinds of people inhabit the world of puzzles, and you have accompanied them on this journey, solving many puzzles along the way.

When joined with A.J. and Greg, your twenty puzzle answers can be associated with a complete set. Put those answers in the canonical order in the blanks below and take the indicated letter from each to spell out exactly what kinds of people are the happiest and most successful in the puzzle-solving world.

A.J. GREG

## **Puzzle Resources**

I've compiled an (I hope) interesting and (I know) non-comprehensive list of helpful puzzle books and websites.

#### Resources on Puzzle-like Thinking and Problem Solving in General

*The Puzzle Instinct: The Meaning of Puzzles in Human Life* by Marcel Danesi (2004). An anthropology professor from the University of Toronto argues that the urge to solve puzzles is hardwired into our species.

*The Sweet Spot: The Pleasures of Suffering and the Search for Meaning* by Paul Bloom (2021). A psychology professor's exploration of why we embrace painful things such as crosswords and marathons.

*A Brief History of Puzzles: Baffling Brainteasers from the Sphinx to Sudoku* by William Hartston (2019). A concise and fun collection of puzzles, including ancient math problems about fertile rabbits and grazing oxen.

*The Scout Mindset: Why Some People See Things Clearly and Others Don't* by Julia Galef (2021). Julia is one of my favorite thinkers and podcasters. This book is a paean to curiosity and rational inquiry, as opposed to motivated reasoning.

*Problem-Solving Techniques That Work For All Types of Challenges* by Spencer Greenberg. https://www.spencer-greenberg.com/2017/06/1514/. A great guide to thinking about real-life puzzles by a mathematician and scientist.

*Wired to Create: Unraveling the Mysteries of the Creative Mind* by Scott Barry Kaufman and Carolyn Gregoire (2016). Psychologist and podcaster Scott Barry Kaufman teams up with science writer Carolyn Gregoire for this insightful guide to creative problem solving.

*Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know* by Adam Grant (2021). As with Julia Galef's book, this one by organizational psychologist Adam Grant extolls the virtues of an open mind. He argues that we should strive to think like scientists, not preachers, prosecutors, or politicians.

*Gödel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid* by Douglas R. Hofstadter (1979). A nonfiction classic that dives deep into cognition and logic—and the minds of the three titular geniuses.

#### **Crossword Resources**

#### Fireball Crosswords

https://www.fireballcrosswords.com Peter Gordon's "blazingly" hard crosswords.

#### Inkubator Crosswords

https://inkubatorcrosswords.com Laura Braunstein and Tracy Bennett edit this ongoing collection of crosswords by women.

#### Two Nerdy Obsessions Meet—and It's Magic

TED Talk by David Kwong (2014) https://www.davidkwongmagic.com David Kwong is one of my favorite crossword makers, and I loved his off-Broadway show *The Engimatist*, which combined crosswords and magic. His TED talk is also great.

#### Queer Qrosswords

https://queerqrosswords.com/

Constructor Nate Cardin puts out this collection of crosswords by LGTBQ+ puzzlemakers, with proceeds going to LGTBQ+ charities.

## Thinking Inside the Box: Adventures with Crosswords and the Puzzling People Who Can't Live Without Them by Adrienne Raphel (2020)

A fun exploration of the crossword world, including Adrienne's trip on a crossword puzzle-themed cruise.

#### Deb Amlen's Crossword Coverage in The New York Times

Deb is the *New York Times* chief puzzle writer, and her articles are as clever and entertaining as the puzzles themselves. For starters, there's her article "How to Solve the New York Times Crossword," a must-read for beginners. She also edits the Wordplay column, which dissects that day's crossword and offers other puzzle-related articles.

#### Gridlock: Crossword Puzzles and the Mad Geniuses Who Create Them by Matt Gaffney (2006)

#### https://xwordcontest.com

A fun guide inside the minds of constructors. Matt also posts a weekly contest with crosswords and metapuzzles.

#### *The Curious History of the Crossword: 100 Puzzles from Then and Now* by Ben Tausig (2013). The noted cruciverbalist writes about the evolution of the puzzle, along with samples for you to solve.

#### **Brendan Emmett Quigley**

https://www.brendanemmettquigley.com Puzzles from the brilliant (and masochistic) crossword maker.

#### From Square One by Dean Olsher (2009)

A lovely exploration of crosswords and life.

#### Rubik's Cube and Other Mechanical Puzzle Resources

#### Cubed: The Puzzle of Us All by Ernö Rubik (2020)

An ode to twisty puzzles and messy rooms by the man who kicked off the craze.

#### Sydney Weaver

http://www.sirwaffle.com Sydney is a great Rubik's instructor, whether you're an accomplished solver or me.

#### That Guy With the Puzzles website

http://www.thatguywiththepuzzles.com

Puzzle designer and collector Brett Kuehner was one of my most trusted guides while exploring mechanical (and other types) of brainteasers. His website has photos of his collection, a guide to designing escape rooms, and more.

#### The Shape of Difficulty: A Fan Letter to Unruly Objects by Bret L. Rothstein (2020)

An erudite guide to the history and philosophy of mechanical puzzles by a professor at Indiana University.

#### The Jerry Slocum Mechanical Puzzle Collection

https://libraries.indiana.edu/lilly-library/mechanical-puzzles

Jerry has amassed one of the largest collections of mechanical puzzles in the world, and donated most of it to Indiana University. You can see images of thousands of historic puzzles (including French entanglement wire puzzles that I didn't include in this book because they weren't as exciting as I'd hoped. But there are plenty of other more interesting puzzles).

#### **Rob's Puzzle Page**

#### http://robspuzzlepage.com

Collector Rob Stegmann shares photos and history of more than 6,600 puzzle items and 250 puzzle-related books that he owns. Rob has vast knowledge of mechanical puzzles.

#### **Chinese Puzzles**

The website https://chinesepuzzles.org from Wei Zhang and Peter Rasmussen is an excellent resource, as are their books *Chinese Puzzles I* and *II*.

#### OskarPuzzle

https://www.youtube.com/c/OskarPuzzle Dutch genius Oskar van Deventer, who designed Jacobs' Ladder, has a YouTube channel with hundreds of videos of his other creations.

#### Anagram and Word Game Resources

#### The National Puzzlers' League

https://www.puzzlers.org

The world's oldest puzzlers' organization (founded in 1883) hosts conferences and publishes *The Enigma*, which contains famously tricky word puzzles.

#### Word Ways

https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/wordways

A journal of "recreational logology" covering "puzzles, novel poems, palindromes, games, magic, unusual lists, etc."

#### **Beyond Wordplay**

https://beyondwordplay.com News and puzzles for fellow word nerds from linguist and *Wall Street Journal* columnist Ben Zimmer, among other illustrious contributors.

## *Puzzlesnacks: More Than 100 Clever, Bite-Size Puzzles for Every Solver* by Eric Berlin (2019) A collection of accessible and creative word puzzles by one of the modern masters.

#### Sunday NPR Puzzle

Every Sunday, Will Shortz presents a word puzzle on NPR. The puzzles can be found here: https://www.npr. org/series/4473090/sunday-puzzle.

One fan has archived them along with discussions here: https://puzzles.blainesville.com.

#### Jigsaw Resources

#### Stave puzzles

https://www.stavepuzzles.com Home to devious, beautiful (and expensive) wood-cut jigsaw puzzles.

#### USA Jigsaw Puzzle Association

http://usajigsaw.org

A good resource for tournaments and tips. One of the founders is Guinness World Record jigsaw holder Tammy McLeod, who has been an excellent source of wisdom during this book on jigsaws and other puzzles.

#### The World Jigsaw Puzzle Federation

This is the group that puts on the world championship, where my family did not finish in last place. https://worldjigsawpuzzle.org

#### **Karen Puzzles**

https://www.youtube.com/c/KarenPuzzles Jigsaw solving tips and oddly satisfying time-lapse videos from a popular YouTuber.

#### The Jigsaw Puzzle: Piecing Together a History by Anne D. Williams (2004)

The most comprehensive book I found on jigsaw history, including facts like this one: a Canadian company in the 1990s agreed to send updated pieces to its world map puzzles as countries' borders changed.

#### Maze and Labyrinth Resources

#### The Labyrinth Society

https://labyrinthsociety.org

The best resource for all things labyrinthine. They hold conferences, put out a publication, and will help you find labyrinths near you.

#### **Eric Eckert's Mazes**

http://www.ericjeckert.com/mazes

Eric Eckert creates pencil mazes featuring celebrities (Bob Ross, Pam Grier), as well as personalized mazes of yourself or your friends.

## The Curious History of Mazes: 4,000 Years of Fascinating Twists and Turns with Over 100 Intriguing Puzzles to Solve by Julie E. Bounford (2018)

A good book covering everything from Pompeii maze graffiti to the 1980s Japanese wooden maze craze and more.

#### **Adrian Fisher**

https://www.mazemaker.com The insanely prolific maze designer and author.

#### Labyrinths & Mazes: A Complete Guide to Magical Paths of the World by Jeff Saward

A photo-filled book spanning Egyptian inscriptions to labyrinths created from ultraviolet light. The book is from the founding editor of *Caerdroia*—the Journal of Mazes and Labyrinths.

#### Math and Logic Puzzle Resources

#### Tanya Khovanova's Math Blog

#### https://blog.tanyakhovanova.com

Fourteen years' worth of entertaining posts about math and puzzles from MIT's Dr. Khovanova.

#### **TED-Ed riddles**

#### https://ed.ted.com

A wonderful collection of videos (sixty-three at last count) featuring logic puzzles with names like the "Egg Drop Riddle" and the "Cuddly, Duddly, Fuddly, Wuddly Riddle."

#### Mathematical Puzzles: A Connoiseur's Collection by Peter Winkler (2020)

Puzzles featuring everything from cake slicing to coin-flipping to spiders on a cube. They are not easy, but are great.

#### The Moscow Puzzles by Boris Kordemsky (1992)

Originally published in the Soviet Union during the Khrushchev era, this classic contains iconic logic puzzles, including one about Communist youth decorating a hydroelectric powerhouse!

#### Tokyo Puzzles by Kōzaburō Fujimura (1978)

A great collection of logic and math puzzles, including some classic matchstick-rearranging problems.

#### Entertaining Mathematical Puzzles by Martin Gardner (1961)

The late and legendary *Scientific American* columnist has written a raft of books. This is just one. But almost any of them are worth reading if you are a math and logic puzzler.

#### The Riddle of Scheherazade: And Other Amazing Puzzles by Raymond Smullyan (1998)

Smullyan was a mathematician and a master of paradoxes and recreational logic. This is one of my favorites of his many books.

#### **Cipher and Code Resources**

#### Elonka Dunin's Kryptos website

https://elonka.com/kryptos The ultimate Kryptos resource from ultimate expert Elonka Dunin.

#### Codebreaking: A Practical Guide by Elonka Dunin and Klaus Schmeh (2021)

An exceedingly useful book for novices and experts interested in codes and ciphers.

## The Codebreakers: The Comprehensive History of Secret Communication from Ancient Times to the Internet by David Kahn (1996)

A 1,200-page, nearly four-pound classic that is worth reading if you love codes and ciphers (even if it is a little dated).

#### Cipherbrain blog by Klaus Schmeh

https://scienceblogs.de/klausis-krypto-kolumne

One of my favorite people in the cryptography community, Klaus runs a blog that features unsolved historical ciphers and codes—and a passionate audience that often solves them.

#### American Cryptogram Association

#### cryptogram.org

An organization devoted to recreational ciphers with conventions and a bimonthly publication called *The Cryptogram*.

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#### Visual Puzzle Resources

#### Quest for the Golden Hare by Bamber Gascoigne (1983)

A fascinating look at the Masquerade madness in the UK in the early '80s, and the cult that it created.

## The 12-Hour Art Expert: Everything You Need to Know About Art in a Dozen Masterpieces by Noah Charney (2022)

This book by art historian Charney is a good intro to art in general, but also has some nuggets about hidden symbols.

#### Sudoku, KenKen, and Other Grid Puzzle Resources

#### The Art of Sudoku by Thomas Snyder (2012)

The World Sudoku Champion shares 120 puzzles that, as the book says, "could never have been produced by random computer generation."

### The 15 Puzzle Book: How It Drove the World Crazy by Jerry Slocum and Dic Sonneveld (2006)

A detailed look at the puzzle fad of the 1880s, and the trickery of Sam Loyd.

#### Puzzles Old & New: How to Make and Solve Them by Jerry Slocum and Jack Botermans (1986)

A photo-filled book of puzzles dating back centuries, often with excellent names such as the "Zornbrecher Puzzle" and "The Loculus of Archimedes."

#### Chess Problem Resources

#### *Rewire Your Chess Brain: Endgame Studies and Mating Problems to Enhance Your Tactical Ability* by Cyrus Lakdawala (2020)

One of Cyrus's fifty-plus books, this is a highly entertaining guide to chess problems, ranging from easy to mind-melting.

#### Prepare With Chess Strategy by Alexey W. Root (2016)

My other favorite chess writer. A great intro to chess strategy, with problems sprinkled throughout.

#### The Immortal Game: A History of Chess by David Shenk (2007)

A fascinating book, and the source for the story in my book about Marcel Duchamp. I'm also a fan of the extended subtitle *How 32 Carved Pieces on a Board Illuminated Our Understanding of War, Science and the Human Brain.* 

#### *Riddle Resources*

#### The Riddle Ages website

https://theriddleages.com

A trove of scholarly but surprisingly fun writing about medieval riddles (some of which are naughty). It was started by University of Birmingham's Megan Cavell.

#### Lewis Carroll's Games & Puzzles by Lewis Carroll and Edward Wakeling (1992)

Acrostics, ciphers, and wonderful, excruciating wordplay from one of the masters.

#### The Curious History of the Riddle by Marcel Danesi (2020)

A chronology of riddles from ancient Greece to the middle ages to Harry Potter.

#### **Puzzle Box Resources**

#### Karakuri

https://karakuri.gr.jp/en The originals. This is the group of designers that started the Japanese puzzle box craze.

#### Kagen Sound

https://kagensound.com The designer of Darren Aronofsky's puzzle desk, Kagen makes puzzles as beautiful as they are perplexing.

#### Stickman

stickmanpuzzlebox.com Home to Oklahoma-based designer Robert Yarger's intricate and innovative boxes.

#### **Chris Ramsay**

https://www.youtube.com/c/ChrisRamsay52 A video collection of the tattooed Canadian magician who grapples with the hardest (and most expensive) puzzle boxes.

#### **Boxes and Booze**

https://www.boxesandbooze.com

Steve Canfield's website with an unusual premise: each puzzle box is paired with a cocktail. (FYI there is a modicum of evidence that a small amount of alcohol can help with problem solving, but diminishing returns kick in soon.)

#### **Sleeping Beauty Resources**

#### The Best Writing on Mathematics, 2018 edited by Mircea Pitici

Perhaps the clearest introduction to the Sleeping Beauty problem is Peter Winkler's essay in this anthology of math-related writing.

#### The Halfers' side

Fans of the Sleeping Beauty problem mostly fall into two camps: halfers and thirders. If you want to learn more about the halfer arguments, Mike Gefers has provided a memo on this book's website, thepuzzlerbook .com.

#### Scavenger and Puzzle Hunt Resources

#### Watson Adventures

#### https://watsonadventures.com

This event company puts on delightful highbrow scavenger hunts, both in person (at museums and in historic neighborhoods) and virtually. They have done hunts in all fifty states and several foreign countries. They also offer Puzzled to Death, co-written by me. The company was founded by Bret Watson, and its president happens to be an awesome human named Julie Jacobs.

#### **MIT Mystery Hunt**

Here's the official site for the MIT Mystery Hunt, the famously challenging puzzle marathon that occurs every January.

puzzles.mit.edu

Another site archives more than three thousand MIT Mystery Hunt puzzles, starting in 1994. https://devjoe.appspot.com/huntindex

#### **Room Escape Artist**

#### https://roomescapeartist.com

This website on escape rooms accurately describes itself as "well-researched, rational, and reasonably humorous." Founded by David and Lisa Spira, it has reviews of hundreds of escape rooms, both real and virtual, as well as history and tips on puzzles.

#### How to Puzzle Cache by Cully Long (2019)

I didn't have room in the book to talk about geocaching, but as you might know, it's sort of a worldwide treasure hunt where you find boxes hidden under trees, in the cracks of walls, and so on (the treasures are stickers, plastic trinkets, notes—not diamonds or gold). Many of the caches require you to solve a puzzle, and this book is an excellent guide.

#### The Joyful, Perplexing World of Puzzle Hunts by Alex Rosenthal

A great TED Talk from one of my Setec Astronomy teammates and TED-Ed team member.

#### **Puzzled Pint**

http://www.puzzledpint.com

An in-person monthly event that takes place in dozens of pubs across the U.S. and other countries. Participants are given a series of challenging puzzles to solve with friends (or alone). It happens on the second Tuesday of every month, but to find your local pub, you have to solve a puzzle posted on the website the Friday before.

## Solutions

#### CHAPTER 1 • Crosswords

From page 7: The first crossword puzzle ever



#### Solutions to Four Crossword Puzzles from History

1. A More Diverse Crossword



#### 2. The World War II puzzle

ACROSS: 1: AFTERTHOUGHTS, 10: ALL EARS, 11: BLADDER, 12: BUCKET, 15: SET OFF, 16: DECIDED, 17: UTAH, 18: FEAT, 19: DECORUM, 20: MACE, 22: AMEN, 24: GALAHAD, 26: SAMPAN, 27: RITUAL, 30: EQUALLY, 31: CHABLIS, 32: REINSTATEMENT

DOWN: 2: FELUCCA, 3: ELATED, 4: TEST, 5: ORBY, 6: GRADED, 7: TADPOLE, 8: HARBOURMASTER, 9: PROFIT AND LOSS, 13: TEHRAN, 14: BIVOUAC, 15: SECULAR, 21: COMPUTE, 23: MAUDLIN, 24: GALLON, 25: DISARM, 28: SYLT, 29: SCUT

3. Scandinavian Crossword

	Ρ		н		S		Т
С	Α	Ν	Т	S	т	Е	R
	Т		G		Α		Т
ο	R	С	Н	Α	R	D	s
		L		s		0	
s	С	U	L	Ρ	т	0	R
	L	Е	Т	s	U	R	Е
	U		Ν		F		Ν
	в	R	Е	Α	т	н	Е
s		Е		т		Υ	
С	0	Ν	S	0	М	М	Ε
U		Е		М	Α	Ν	х
Ρ	Α	w	s		R		Ρ
	в		С	Α	Т	R	0
U	s	E	R		Ρ	Е	Ν
	Е		Α	D	0	в	Е
S	Ν	0	w		s	U	Ν
	т		L	Е	Α	s	т

4. Peter Gordon Fireball Crossword



The six longest Across answers in the puzzle end with the last names of Hall of Fame baseball players whose uniform numbers have been retired by their teams. From top to bottom, they are the following: Rollie FIN-GERS (#34 retired by the Brewers and A's), Jim RICE (#14, Red Sox), Johnny BENCH (#5, Reds), Bob LEMON (#21, Indians), Nellie FOX (#2, White Sox), and Mike PIAZZA (#31, Mets). The numbers in order from top to bottom are these: 34, 14, 5, 21, 2, 31. Looking at the letters in the grid in the correspondingly numbered squares (highlighted in the answer grid) yields J, A, C, K, I, E.

There is only one Jackie whose number has been retired: Jackie Robinson. The Brooklyn Dodgers infielder made his debut on April 15, 1947, breaking baseball's color barrier. He batted .311 in his 10-season career and was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1962, his first year of eligibility. The Dodgers retired his number in 1972, and on April 15, 1997, the fiftieth anniversary of his historic first game, his number was retired throughout the majors.

Jackie Robinson Day is celebrated each year on April 15. In recent years, every player, coach, and umpire in every game in the majors wears Robinson's uniform number on that day. That uniform number (which also happens to be the answer to the great question of life, the universe, and everything, according to the Douglas Adams book *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*) is the final answer to the puzzle: 42.

19D: M. Patate, the French name for Mr. Potato Head, has a NEZ (nose) piece.

35D: Max BAER's technical knockout of Max Schmeling at Yankee Stadium was *Ring* magazine's 1933 Fight of the Year.

#### CHAPTER 4 • Anagrams

- 1. MOON STARERS = ASTRONOMERS
- 2. BAG MANAGER = GARBAGE MAN
- 3. A STEW, SIR? = WAITRESS
- 4. MR. MOJO RISIN' = JIM MORRISON
- 5. ONE COOL DANCE MUSICIAN = MADONNA LOUISE CICCONE
- 6. GENUINE CLASS = ALEC GUINNESS
- 7. RADIUM CAME = MADAM CURIE
- 8. CASH LOST IN 'EM = SLOT MACHINES
- 9. BUILT TO STAY FREE = STATUE OF LIBERTY
- 10. DIRTY ROOM = DORMITORY
- 11. VIOLENCE RUN FORTH = FRENCH REVOLUTION
- 12. Cartoonist Bil Keane (The Family Circus) turns into Bike Lane
- 13. Virgin Wool turns into Virginia Woolf
- 14. 5,280 Feet in a Mile
- 15. 3 Sides in a Triangle
- 16. 5 Fingers on a Hand
- 17. 14 Days in a Fortnight
- 18. 6 Feet in a Fathom
- 19. 9 Lives of a Cat

#### CHAPTER 5 • **Rebuses**

#### From page 61: Sam Loyd's Famous Trick Donkeys

For further explanation of the Trick Donkeys puzzle, see thepuzzlerbook.com.



#### SOLUTIONS TO SEVEN REBUSES FROM HISTORY

1. Potatoes (Pot plus eight Os)

**2.** The escort card reads:

May I see you home my dear?

3. The answer to the newspaper rebus is "Horace Greeley."

The hints are: The male spectator is shouting "Ho!" They are watching a "race." The dog is saying "Grrrr." The runner has an "E" on his shirt. The female spectator is cheering on "Lee."

4. The bottle cap rebus is

Book R T Washing Ton or Booker T. Washington

- 5. The ball is in your court.
- 6. Travel overseas
- 7. For once in my life

#### CHAPTER 8 • Math and Logic Puzzles

From page 113: **The Rhind Papyrus puzzle Problem 79** The total is 19,607.

#### From page 113: The first known river-crossing puzzle

- 1. Take the goat and leave it on the other side.
- 2. Return to the original side alone.
- 3. Take the wolf across and leave it on the other side, but retrieve the goat.
- 4. Return with the goat.
- 5. Leave the goat on the original side and take the cabbage to the other side.
- 6. Return alone and bring the goat to the other side.

#### Solutions to Nine Math and Logic Puzzles from History

1. If you move the I from "IX" to the minus sign and turn it into a plus sign, you get a correct equation.

VI + IV = X

- 2. The girls are not twins. They are triplets (or quadruplets).
- 3. The answer is one. Here is Carroll's diagram of how this is possible:



#### 4. The missing yen puzzle

#### FROM THE TOKYO PUZZLES:

This puzzle is a play on words. If you analyze the problem correctly, you will find the right answer. The 27,000 yen is the sum of the 25,000 that the cashier received and the 2,000 yen that the maid took. Therefore, it

does not make sense to add once again the maid's 2,000 yen

to the 27,000 yen. It does make sense to add the 3,000 yen

that the maid returned, in which case the two amounts equal 30,000 yen.

**5.** According to William Poundstone's book *Are You Smart Enough to Work at Google?*, from which this Fermi problem was taken, it would take about 250 billion toilet paper rolls to cover Texas.

6. Pour wine from the vessel with 8 pints into the 5-pint vessel (leaving 3 pints).

Then take the 5-pint vessel and pour it unto the 3-pint vessel (leaving 2 pints).

So now we have 3 pints in the 8-pint vessel, 3 pints in the 3-pint vessel, and 2 pints in the 5-pint vessel.

Pour all the wine from the 3-pint vessel into the 8-pint vessel. The 8-pint vessel now has 6 pints.

Now pour the 2 pints from the 5-pint vessel into the empty 3-pint vessel.

Now take the 8-pint vessel and pour all you can into the 5-pint vessel, leaving 1 pint.

So we've got 5 pints of wine in the 5-pint vessel, 2 pints of wine in the 3-pint vessel, and 1 pint in the 8-pint vessel.

Now pour what you can (1 pint) from the 5-pint vessel into the 3-pint vessel, which has 2 pints already. The 5-pint vessel now has 4 pints!

Now pour the 3 pints from the 3-pint vessel into the 8-pint vessel.

Now the 8-pint vessel also has 4 pints, and you have some well-aerated wine.

Enjoy!

7. Two slices on top and one horizontal slice through the middle give you eight pieces.



8. 3, 4, 5 doesn't belong because it is the only one with consecutive numbers.

8, 10, 12 doesn't belong because it is the only one that isn't a Pythagorean triple. It also doesn't belong because it's the only one where the numbers are all even.

6.9, 11.5, and the  $\sqrt{84.64}$  doesn't belong because

it is the only one with decimals
or it is the only one with a radical sign

or it is the only one where the sum of all the digits isn't 12(3 + 4 + 5 = 12, 8 + 1 + 0 + 1 + 2 = 12; 5 + 1 + 2 + 1 + 3 = 12).

There are many other solutions. These are just a few.

9. The first man is a knave, and the second man is a knight.

We know the first man is a knave because a knight cannot lie, so a knight could never say that he was a knave. We know the second man is a knight because if the second man was also a knave, the first knave would be speaking the truth when he says, "We are both knaves." Knaves cannot tell the truth. So, one knave and one knight.

### CHAPTER 9 · Ciphers and Secret Codes

#### 1. Victorian love ciphers

A.B. to M.N.—Tn dvcr trw rhtn yltcfrp drtln yln srsd t s uy dn trw t uy.

The secret is that the cipher omits vowels and spells the words backward. So the message is (something like):

"Not Received. Write another, perfectly unaltered. Only desirous to see you. Need write to you."

#### 2. Newspaper cryptograms

a) Alaska is the only state whose name can be typed on one row of a keyboard.

- b) Pink Floyd's lyric "We don't need no education" is a self-defeating argument.
- c) Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus, right down Santa Claus Lane. What are the odds?
- d) George Washington's boozy eggnog recipe included this instruction: "Taste frequently."

#### 3. Edgar Allan Poe's ciphers

I am a word of ten letters. My first, second, seventh, and third is useful to farmers; my sixth, seventh, and first is a mischievous animal; my ninth, seventh, and first is the latter's enemy; my tenth, seventh, and first supports life; my fourth, fifth, seventh, and sixth is a fruit; my fourth, fifth, and eighth is a powerful implement; my whole indicates a wise man.

The answer is "Temperance."

The words indicated in the riddle include "team," "rat," "cat," "eat," and "pear."

The cipher is below:

A 9 / C 6 / D: / E 8 / F s / G; / H 7 / I o / L n / M? / N 5 / O a / P! / R d / S—/ T 3 / U h / V x / W 2 / X g / Y †

#### 4. The NASA code

The rays of the sun contain Morse code (in the form of alternating long and short rays) that reads "Explore as one."

The phrase is a slogan of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

# CHAPTER 10 • Visual Puzzles

#### Hidden logos

**1.** Baskin Robbins—The lighter parts of the letters "BR" resemble the number 31, as in their trademark 31 flavors.

**2.** Toblerone—There is a silhouette of a bear in the mountain. A bear is a reference to the Swiss city Bern, where Toblerone was created and which features a bear in its coat of arms.

3. Tour de France—The R resembles a rider, and the two circles resemble the wheels of a bicycle.

4. Sun Microsystems—The diamond pattern contains the word "sun."

5. Pittsburgh Zoo—The faces of a gorilla and a lion can be seen on either side of the tree.

### 6. The Missing Square puzzle

The two figures may look like triangles, but they are actually not triangles. The hypotenuse in these figures is not a straight line. One is slightly convex, the other slightly concave. The difference in area is enough to create a gap the size of the square. This puzzle is often given to geometry classes as a warning to not trust your eyes.

#### 7. The Soviet camping puzzle

- a) There are four tourists. See the four sets of cutlery on the picnic blanket and four names on the duty list.
- b) They arrived a few days ago—long enough for a spider to build a web between their tent and a tree.
- c) They got there by boat, judging by the oars next to the tree.
- d) The closest village is not far-the chicken wouldn't be walking around in the area otherwise.
- e) The wind is blowing from the south. The flag on top of the tent shows the wind direction and, looking at the trees, branches on the southern side are normally longer.
- f) It's morning. The shadows show the sun is to their east.
- g) Alex is catching butterflies—see the scoop net behind the tent.
- h) Colin was on duty yesterday. He's looking for something in his backpack, which is marked with a "C." Alex is catching butterflies. James is taking pictures. Peter is on duty today, and Colin was on duty yesterday.
- i) It's August 8th—because Peter is on duty and there is a watermelon in the ground. Watermelons ripen in August.

#### **Bongard problems**

8. The left side has spirals that curve counterclockwise; the right side has spirals that curve clockwise.

9. The left-side shapes have horizontal necks; the right-side shapes have vertical necks.

**10.** On the left side, the dots inside the shape outline are grouped more densely than the dots outside the contour. On the right, it's the opposite.

**11.** The second and third panels are identical, as are the first and fourth.

# CHAPTER 11 • Sudoku and KenKen

# Ben Franklin's Magic Square

From page 163:

From The Gentleman's Magazine:

Surprizing Properties of Numbers placed in Dr. Franklin's Magic Square of Squares.

The great square is divided into 256 small squares, in which all the numbers from 1 to 256 are placed in 16 columns, which may be taken either horizontally or vertically. The properties are as follows:

The sum of the 16 numbers in each column, vertical or horizontal, is 2056.

Every half column, vertical and horizontal, makes 1028, or half 2056.

Half a diagonal ascending, added to half a diagonal descending, makes 2056; taking these half diagonals from the ends of any side of the square to the middle thereof, and so reckoning them either upward or downward; or sideways from left to right hand, or from right to left.

The same with all the parallels to the half diagonals, as many as can be drawn in the great square: for any two of them being directed upward and downward, from where they began to where they end, their sums will make 2056. The same downward and upward from where they begin to where they end; or the same if taken sidewise to the middle, and back to the same side again.

N.B. One set of these half diagonals and their parallels is drawn in the figure upward and downward. Another such set may be drawn from any of the other three sides.

The four corner numbers in the great square added to the four central numbers make 1028, equal to half the sum of any vertical or horizontal column, which contains 16 numbers, and equal to half a diagonal or its parallel.

If a square hole (equal in breadth to four of the little squares) be cut in a paper, through which any of the 16 little squares in the great square may be seen, and the paper be laid on the great square; the sum of all the 16 numbers, seen through the hole, is equal to the sum of the 16 numbers in any horizontal or vertical column, viz, to 2056.

#### From page 169:

#### Miyamoto's hardest KenKen solution

									-
<sup>°</sup> 6	5	<sup>°</sup> 9	1	ຶ8	ັ3	7	່ 2	4	
7	6	1	່ 2	9	<sup>°</sup> 4	8	3	5	
8	<sup>°</sup> 7	2	3	1	5	۳ً9	ັ4	6	
4	3	7	8	6	1	5	9	້ 2	010
<sup>°</sup> 9	<sup>™</sup> 8	ັ 3	4	ື2	6	<sup>22</sup> 1	5	7	nyan
3	2	<sup>"</sup> 6	7	<sup>~</sup> 5	ັ 9	4	8	<sup>°</sup> 1	uya IV
2	1	ຶ 5	6	4	8	3	7	9	Ters
1	9	4	5	<sup>"</sup> 3	7	2	6	8	ngn
5	4	<sup>*</sup> 8	9	7	ັ 2	6	1	3	Copy

#### Solutions to Four Grid Puzzles from History

1. Number Place

	_	_	-			_															
ŀ	4	2	3	9	8	1	7	5	6	2	6	8	7	2	5	3	4	1	9		
	7	5	8	4	6	3	2	1	9		4	1	2	7	8	9	6	5	3		
	9	1	6	2	5	7	3	4	8		3	9	5	6	4	1	2	8	7		۶
	5	8	4	3	1	9	6	2	7		7	2	4	9	3	5	8	6	1		5
	6	9	2	8	7	5	1	3	4		9	5	8	ï	6	2	7	3	4	503	2 Pac
	٦	3	7	6	2	4	9	8	5		1	6	3	4	7	8	5	9	2	300	PIIZ
	3	7	5	1	4	6	8	9	2		8	7	6	3	9	4	1	2	5	Ŀ.	[[]
	8	4	1	7	9	2	5	6	3		5	3	1	8	2	7	9	4	6	ĨĨ	nvT
	2	6	9	5	3	8	4	7	1		2	4	9	5	1	6	3	7	8	2	Den

2. Thomas Snyder Artistic Sudoku

									-
2	6	4	9	1	5	7	3	8	
8	1	7	2	3	4	9	5	6	
3	9	5	6	8	7	2	1	4	Ι.
9	8	1	4	2	6	3	7	5	rder
5	2	6	8	7	3	1	4	9	SS
7	4	3	5	9	1	8	6	2	in or
1	5	8	3	6	2	4	9	7	ofT
6	3	2	7	4	9	5	8	1	tesv
4	7	9	1	5	8	6	2	3	1 C

# 3. The first KenKen

6				7	
	2	1	3	4	oto
8		7	5		ivan
	1	4	2	3	a Mi
					tsuv
	4	3	1	2	t Te
		7			Tigh
	3	2	4	1	lopV

# 4. Star Battle

						★		
		★						l
$\star$								
				★				
							★	
					★			9
			$\star$					
	$\star$							Į

# CHAPTER 12 · Chess Puzzles (Chess Problems)

From page 178: Kubbel's hardest mate in one problem: Move the White queen to a3.

# Solutions to Eight Chess Problems from History

### 1. The eight queens puzzle

There are twelve solutions. All are readily found on the Internet. Here's one of them:



# 2. Guarini's problem

Black knight (BK) from a3 to c2 BK from c3 to b1 White knight (WK) from cl to a2 WK from al to b3 BK from c2 to al BK from bl to a3 WK from b1 to a3 WK from b3 to c1 BK from a1 to b3 BK from a3 to c2 WK from c3 to b1 WK from c1 to a2 BK from b3 to c1 BK from c2 to a1 WK from b1 to a3 WK from a2 to c3

### 3. Mate in one problem no. 1

Move the White queen to b7

#### 4. Mate in one problem no. 2

Move the White pawn to b7

#### 5. Nabokov's problem

1. h3 Kh4 2. Rxg6 gxh3 3. Bf6#

1. White pawn moves to h3, Black king moves to h4 2. White rook takes on g6, Black pawn takes on h3 3. White bishop checkmate on f6

Other variations include:

1. h3! h4 2 Rh7! hxg3 3 h4 mate, and

1. h3! Kh6 2 h4! g5 3 hxg5 mate

#### 6. Sam Loyd's Excelsior

1. b4!

Threatening 2.Rf5 *any* 3.Rf1# or 2.Rd5 *any* 3.Rd1# (with possible prolonging of both by 2... Rc5 3.bxc5 *any* 4.R mates). White cannot begin with 1.Rf5 because Black's 1... Rc5 would pin the rook. Now there are multiple possible moves defending only one of the threats and one secondary non-thematical defense: 1... Rxc2 2.Nxc2! a2 3.Rd5 (or Rf5) al=Q 4.Nxa1 *any* 5.R mates.

#### 1... Rc5+ 2. bxc5!

Threatening 3.Rb1#.

2...a23.c6!

Again with the same threats as on move one, i.e. 4.Rf5 any 5.Rfl# or 4.Rd5 any 5.Rdl#.

#### 3...Bc7

Because both Rd5 and Rf5 are threatened; the alternative moves 3... Bf6 and 3... Bg5 would only defend against one or the other. The given move does defend against Rd5 in the sense that 4.Rd5 Bxg3 5.Rd1+ Bel 6.Rdxel# takes more than the required five moves, and similarly for 4.Rf5 Bf4.

#### 4. cxb7 any 5. bxa8=Q/B#

The mate is delivered with the pawn that starts on b2.

Solution courtesy of Wikipedia.

#### 7. Shakespeare for a chimp (Kasparyan's problem)

1. Bh6!!

Deflection. White puts the bishop en prise as well. When I see a move as insane-looking as this, all that registers within my brain is gibberish. It seems almost a joke that White would play on, yet Fritz 17 assesses the position at -0.57 (soon to go to 0.00) where Black is barely up half a pawn. And that is an overestimation!

Not 1 Ka2? Nd7 and Black consolidates.

1... Qxh6 A similar result occurs after 1... Qxd4+ 2 Ka2 Qa4+ (2... Nd7 3 g7+ Qxg7 4 Bxg7+ Kxg7 is a theoretical draw) 3 Kb1 Qb3+ 4 Ka1 Qa3+ 5 Kb1 and as long as the White king keeps to al and b1, Black has nothing better than perpetual check.

**2.** Nf5! This way the knight is not hanging. Whereas after 2 Ne6? Qc1+ 3 Ka2 Qd2+ White's king is fatally restricted by the need to avoid dropping the knight with check. For example: 4 Ka1 (or 4 Kb3 Qe3+ 5 Kb4 Nd5+ 6 Ka4 Qe4+ 7 Kb5 Qb4+ 8 Kc6 Ne7+ 9 Kd7 Nxg6 and Black eliminates all threats and wins) 4 . . . Qe1+ 5 Kb2 (5 Ka2 Qxe6+ wins) 5 . . . Nd3+ 6 Kc2 Nb4+ (three menacing adults approach a helpless child) 7 Kb2 Qe2+ 8 Ka3 Nc2+ 9 Kb2 Ne3+ 10 Ka1 Qd1+ 11 Ka2 Qa4+ 12 Kb2 Nec4+ 13 Kc3 Qa3+ 14 Kc2 Qa2+ 15 Kd3 Qd2+ 16 Ke4 Qe3+ 17 Kf5 Qe5 mate.

**2** . . . Qcl+ 3 Ka2 Qc2+ 4 Ka1

(Courtesy of Cyrus Lakdawala, Rewire Your Chess Brain)

# 8. Helpmate

 $1\ldots Qh8$ 

2. Qb3 mate

# CHAPTER 13 • **Riddles**

From page 199, the Exeter Book riddle number 4:

The bad part is, this riddle from the Exeter Book is a tough one.

The good part is, you can justify almost any guess on God's green earth. Here is a list of proposed solutions:

A bucket of water A bell A dog A lock The devil A team of oxen A sword A millstone Necromancy (the art of communicating with the dead) A flail (a threshing tool) A hand mill A pen A phallus

#### SOLUTIONS TO TWELVE RIDDLES FROM HISTORY

1. A shadow

**2.** Time

3. Seven

4. Water

5. A pen

6. A stamp

7. Woman (woe and man). Yes, very heteronormative and sexist, but please blame Jane Austen, not me.

8. Spider (spy, plus "d" plus "er")

**9.** To the mooo-vies!

10. Windmill

**11.** One. As *Mental Floss* explains, this "is a classic trick question. If the narrator is going to St. Ives, anyone he or she meets is going in the opposite direction. So the narrator (one person) is going to St. Ives, and all the wives and cats and kittens are irrelevant misdirections (in the literal sense of the word)."

12. A match

# CHAPTER 16 • Cryptics

From page 225, the solution to *The Telegraph* puzzle used in recruiting codebreakers during World War II.

ACROSS: 1 TROUPE, 4 SHORT CUT, 9 PRIVET, 10 AROMATIC, 12 TREND, 13 GREAT DEAL, 15 OWE, 16 FEIGN, 17 NEWARK, 22 IMPALE, 24 GUISE, 27 ASH, 28 CENTRE BIT, 31 TOKEN, 32 LAME DOGS, 33 RACING, 34 SILENCER, 35 ALIGHT.

DOWN: 1 TIPSTAFF, 2 OLIVE OIL, 3 PSEUDONYM, 5 HORDE, 6 REMIT, 7 CUTTER, 8 TACKLE, 11 AGENDA, 14 ADA, 18 WREATH, 19 RIGHT NAIL, 20 TINKLING, 21 SENNIGHT, 23 PIE, 25 SCALES, 26 ENAMEL, 29 RODIN, 30 BOGIE.

#### SOLUTION TO ONE CRYPTIC FROM HISTORY

ACROSS: 1 MUNICIPALISE, 9 INCUR, 10 MERRIMENT, 11 HEINOUS, 12 EVERTON, 13 PALLIATIVE, 15 CARE, 18 CONE, 19 OESOPHAGUS, 22 NEWPORT, 24 BATHBUN, 25 ENDOSCOPY, 26 NURSE, 27 CHE-MOTHERAPY

DOWN: 1 MACMILLAN, 2 NARCOTIC, 3 CAMUS, 4 PARLEYVOO, 5 LOITER, 6 STENT, 7 MISHAP, 8 STANCE, 14 THEFTBOOT, 16 ARGYBARGY, 17 PHOTINIA, 18 CANCER, 20 SUNSET, 21 POSSUM, 23 WIDTH, 24 BOYLE

#### CHAPTER 17 • Scavenger Hunts and Puzzle Hunts

#### 1. Doodlepalooza

Palm Sunday Fairy Tale Pause Button Capital Letter Sales Tax Check Point

The highlighted letters spell "Artist."

# 2. The first MIT Mystery Hunt

a. This is Messier 3, or M3, for which the clue answer only uses "3." The answer is one that many higherlevel amateur astronomers would know offhand.

b. Tweedledum's rank is "4." This is from the chess game in Through the Looking-Glass.

c. "WELCOME." This is a quote from Shakespeare's Hamlet.

d. "THE." "First word of The Bible" is a bit of a trick question. The first kneejerk idea would be to take the word "IN" from "In the beginning . . ." in Genesis 1:1. But the first word of the two-word phrase "The Bible" is "THE."

Incidentally, the solution to the meta-puzzle in that first MIT hunt was this:

ROOM 13-E124, "WELCOME TO THE MONKEY HOUSE"

The room was a reserve reading room. The goal was to find its copy of Kurt Vonnegut's novel *Welcome to the Monkey House*.

(Solutions courtesy of Bradley Schaefer)

3.

	Bobcat		
by Justin Graham Answer: BASSISTS			
The animals are all bands w one of the bands. Match the song title using the numbe	rith animal names (Beatles, Def Leppard, Eagles, etc). Ea e songs (fun facts) and bands (animals) and order by the r next to the Fun Fact. Put the letters in the order of the p	ch fun fact references a well- path of animals in the picture path in the picture.	known song from e. Index into the
Beatles	after eating one of Mackintosh's confections.	10 Savov Truffle	F
Byrds	just a few kilometers above the troposphere.	8 Eight Miles High	Ĺ
Pitbull	This animal shouts out a warning when a tree is falling.	5 Timber	E
Eagles	These animals operate an inn on the West Coast.	15 Hotel California	Α
Turtles	These animals are glad to be all in the same place.	2 Happy Together	Α
Blue Öyster Cult	This animal set itself on fire on your behalf.	6 Burnin' For You	N
Phish	marshmallow all over their noggin	9 Fluffhead	D
Three Dog Night	express their happiness to the entire globe.	13 Joy To The World	D
Def Leppard	Please spill your sweetener on this animal.	3 Pour Some Sugar On Me	U
Gorillaz	organized themselves into a euphoric corporation	11 Feel Good Inc	С
John Cougar (Mellencamp)	This animal likes rosé homes.	4 Pink Houses	к
Monkees	These animals worship flights of fancy.	1 Daydream Believer	D
Scorpions	shake you as if you were in a tropical storm.	14 Rock You Like A Hurricane	U
Counting Crows	monarch of precipitation.	7 Rain King	N
Whitesnake	Look out! This animal is starting to do it another time.	12 Here I Go Again	N
This yields the message FLE	A AND DUCK DUNN. These are the names of BASSISTS (	the solution).	

#### SOLUTION TO THE MISSING CYCLIST PROBLEM

The secret is that the thirteenth man is created from the bisected features of the other twelve men. So the face, for instance, in the fourth man becomes a face for both the fourth and eleventh man.

# Hints to the Original Puzzle Hunt by Greg Pliska

### 1. The "The Puzzle of Puzzles" Puzzle

The clue answers have something in common. Ask yourself why the title is what it is.

#### 2. Data Error

Twelve cells each contain a unique pair of letters, leaving two letters unused.

### 3. Rubik's 3 × 3 × 3

Here are some of the first words to get you started: green BERET, red CHINA, blue BONNET, orange BLOSSOM.

# 4. Flatfoots

One way to get started is to try to identify the missing words from the context. Here are some clues for each flat:

- 1) What word completes the phrase, borrowed from the French, "\_\_\_ monde"?
- 2) SECOND is a past-tense verb meaning "placed a bet."
- 3) LONG is a part of Ukraine recently invaded by Russia.
- 4) MOST and LOON are both plural nouns. In the singular, they form the title of a Disney film, *The* \_\_\_\_\_ *and the* \_\_\_\_.
- 5) Start with "FIVE Rivera." What famous Broadway performer is that?
- 6) What notable religious book fits alphabetically between Beowulf and Black Boy?

ANAGRAM: Your answer is a crime show from the '90s.

# 5. Signs and Symbols

If you're stuck, try figuring out the L with the plus sign. What does that sign indicate in chemistry? Once you have an idea what the answers have in common, you can work backward to figure out which items in the group are clued by which image.

# 6. A Perfect Match

ROBOT + BLOCKS = ROBLOX, and the two squares with those words belong in the very center of the 3 x 4 array of squares.

# 7. We Aim to Please

The path you take in each maze will form the shape of a letter.

#### 8A. The Latest Fashion

The number of the time tells you which letter you need from the corresponding designer's name, while the number of outfits tells you which letter to take from the fabric type.

#### **8B. Real Numbers**

You can search for songs by each artist that have numbers in them and see if any match the initials in the left column. For example, Ariana Grande has a song called "Seven Rings," which fits with "7 \_\_\_\_". The R fills in the blank, and forms part of the final message.

## 9. Remix

The rule for #4 is to reverse all but the first letter of each word. So PNOITATIPICER was originally PRE-CIPITATION.

#### **10. Border Crossings**

The second pair shows Tokyo, JAPAN and Sana'a, YEMEN. The letter you get from JAPAN/YEMEN is N.

#### 11. Coming to Terms

The top row of the KenKen is 482516739.

#### 12. Greeks vs. Romans

The first word of the Black knight clue is ANOTHER.

### 13. Who Are We?

Several of the riddles involve strings of letters that appear in words that are given. For #5, you're looking for a pair of real people with the same first name, and the last names Black and White.

### 14. Japanese Puzzle Boxes

The second word in each set is, respectively, MANDARIN, PERPLEX, and BAOBAB. The sets are Languages, Synonyms for Puzzle, and Trees.

### 15. Thirders and Halfers

The Thirder answers spell out three separate clues, each of which hints at a two-letter abbreviation. The Halfer answers spell out two separate clues, each of which hints at a three-letter answer.

### 16. Transatlantic

Don't get discouraged! There are many online guides to solving cryptic crossword clues. Your first step should be to ignore the "surface" meaning of the clue—what it appears to be about—and try to find the two halves. Does the beginning or the end of the clue read like it might be a traditional crossword-style clue? That might be the definition for the answer, meaning the other half of the clue involves wordplay. For the word-play, look for indications that you scramble up letters (like "reformulated") or hints that you take part of a word or pair of words ("contents" or "initially").

#### 17. Skyscrapers of Hanoi

Consider the building names, like CITIC or Willis. Does the word have a particular property, and are there answer words that share that property? Or is the word a member of a set, and are there answers that are also members of that same set?

#### 18. Big Secrets (the metapuzzle)

Consider what things come in sets with this many members. You might also want to pay special attention to the flavortext.

# Solutions to the Original Puzzle Hunt by Greg Pliska

#### 1. The "The Puzzle of Puzzles" Puzzle solution

Each clue can be answered with a reduplicated word. The first letters of those words spell the answer **DOUBLE BOND**.

1 Dik-dik 2 Once, once 3 Up, up 4 Bora Bora 5 Lang Lang 6 Extra! Extra! 7 Baden-Baden 8 Out, out 9 Nae nae 10 Dee Dee

### 2. Data Error solution

There are twelve cells in the puzzle where the across and down letters do not match. These "mismatched pairs" are placed symmetrically in the grid and include 24 of the letters of the alphabet. (Within each pair the letters are alphabetical, across preceding down, and the pairs themselves are then placed alphabetically in the grid.)

The missing pair of letters, **IO**, is the answer to this puzzle.



### 3. Rubik's 3 × 3 × 3 solution

Each face consists of words which can precede that face's color in a common word or phrase, like WHITE ELEPHANT and GREEN BERET.

The leftover trigrams can be rearranged to spell HARRY POTTER WIZARD WITH SURNAME BLACK, which clues the answer **SIRIUS**.



#### 4. Flatfoots solution

The answers to each flat are given below. The bold words form the clue OH! NEED CRIME FOES HIT TITLE, which anagrams to **HOMICIDE: LIFE ON THE STREET**.

#### 154 · THE PUZZLER

- 1. oh, eau, owe, haut
- 2. New Ager, wagered, **need**
- 3. Crimea, crime
- 4. hounds, bounds; foxes, foes
- 5. Chianti, tai chi, Chita, itch, hit
- 6. Bible, title

#### 5. Signs and Symbols solution

Each rebus stands for the symbol of one sign of the zodiac. The indicated letters spell the message ITEM LEFT OUT, which is the missing twelfth animal, the **CRAB**.

1.	VI (six) R gin	VIRGIN (2)	I
2.	TW in S	TWINS (1)	Т
3.	scale S	SCALES (5)	Е
4.	R a.m.	RAM (3)	Μ
5.	L ion	LION (1)	L
6.	arch ER	ARCHER (5)	Е
7.	F is H	FISH (1)	F
8.	go AT	GOAT (4)	Т
9.	S, C or pi on	SCORPION (3)	0
10.	B.U. (Boston University) LL (Cool J)	BULL (2)	U
11.	(3)water (H2) bear ER	WATER BEARER	Т

# 6. A Perfect Match solution

The grid below shows the assembled pieces. The portmanteau words created are:

- 1. Britain + exit = Brexit
- 2. lollipop + icicle = popsicle
- 3. three + repeat = threepeat
- 4. Labrador + poodle = labradoodle
- 5. bunny + Dracula = Bunnicula
- 6. Yellow Pages + help = Yelp
- 7. shark + tornado = Sharknado
- 8. American + track = Amtrak
- 9. robot + blocks = Roblox

- 10. clam + tomato = Clamato
  11. 14 + night = fortnight
  12. apple + martini = appletini
- 13. spiced + ham = Spam
- 14. June + 19th = Juneteenth
- 15. sunflower + artichoke = sunchoke
- 16. spoon + fork = spork
- 17. pocket + monster = Pokemon

	THIN			FLOOR			NAIL			PLUS	
LETTERS		BRITAIN	EXIT		LOLLIPOP	KORLE		THREE	REPEAT		MOUSE
	LABRADOR			BUNNY			YELLOW PAGES			SHARK	
	POODLE			DRACULA			HELP			TORNADO	
TEN		AMERICAN	TRACK		ROBOT	BLOCKS		CLAM	томато		OALLERINA
	ч			APPLE			SPICED			JUNE	
	NIGHT			MARTINI			нам			19TH	Î
N		SUN- FLOWER	ARTICHOKE		SPOON	FORK		POCKET	MONSTER		CAN
	PAIR		18	STAR			MOVIE			VIELD	

#### 155 · THE PUZZLER

The outer ring of words reads: thin floor nail plus mouse ballerina can yield movie star pair in ten letters. This clues a final portmanteau, BRAD + ANGELINA = **BRANGELINA**, which is the answer to this puzzle.

#### 7. We Aim to Please solution

The shaded squares, which show all the cells traverse, spell out the letters **NECKTIE**.





#### 8A. The Latest Fashion solution

The completed chart is shown below. Extract a letter from each designer's name according to the time they went on, and extract a letter from each fabric based upon the number of outfits shown in it. Those letter pairs, in order, spell the answer **NEW CLOTHES.** 

Тіме	Ναμε	No. of Outfits	Fabric
1:00	<u>N</u> IKITA	5	TAFF <u>E</u> TA
2:00	K <u>W</u> AME	1	<u>C</u> ORDUROY
3:00	SA <u>L</u> MAN	2	C <u>O</u> TTON
4:00	BAU <u>T</u> ISTA	4	CAS <u>H</u> MERE
5:00	MEIF <u>E</u> NG	3	MU <u>S</u> LIN

Here, thanks to test solver Joshua Kosman, is one possible solving trajectory. Numbers in parentheses here indicate which of the instructions is used to support each inference.

Salman showed either 2 or 4 outfits (1). Bautista showed either 2 or 4 outfits (4). Nikita and Kwame's outfits total 6, and they can't be 2 and 4 so they're 1 and 5 in some order. Meifeng, then, showed 3.

The one showing five outfits did it at either 1:00 or 2:00 (3), and that's either Nikita or Kwame. So Nikita and Kwame's consecutive appearances (2) was either at 1:00 and 2:00 in some order, or at 2:00 and 3:00 in some order. In either case, Bautista can't have shown at 2:00, so he showed at 4:00. Therefore he showed 4 outfits and Salman showed 2.

Salman showed his two outfits immediately after the person (again, either Nikita or Kwame) who showed 1. That's only possible if Salman showed at 3:00, the 1-outfit designer showed at 2:00, and the 5-outfit designer showed at 1:00. The person showing cashmere did it at 4:00, three hours after the 5-outfit designer (3). With Nikita and Kwame in the 1:00 and 2:00 slots in some order, Meifeng showed her 3 outfits at 5:00.

The 1 outfit at 2:00 was corduroy (1), Salman's 2 outfits at 3:00 were cotton (1), and Bautista's 4 outfits at 4:00 were cashmere. That leaves 5 outfits at 1:00 and 3 outfits at 5:00; they were taffeta and muslin, respectively (5). The designer showing 5 taffeta at 1:00 was Nikita, not Kwame (2), leaving Kwame in the 2:00 slot.

# **8B.** Real Numbers solution

The title and artist for each song is given below, along with the missing character. These letters and numbers spell BASEBALL POSITION 7 8 or 9, which clues the solution **OUTFIELDER**.

CLUE	TITLE	ARTIST	MISSING CHARACTER
1 S F, 3 S	1 Step Forward, 3 Steps Back	Olivia Rodrigo	В
9IT	Nine in the Afternoon	Panic! at the Disco	A
O 69	Summer of '69	Bryan Adams	S
O 17	Edge of Seventeen	Stevie Nicks	E
3 L	Three Little Birds	Bob Marley and the Wailers	В
1BTD	Another One Bites the Dust	Queen	A
50 W T Y L	50 Ways to Leave Your Lover	Paul Simon	L
O 1000 D	Land of 1,000 Dances	Wilson Pickett	L
99	99 Problems	Jay-Z	Р
2 O 3 A B	Two Out of Three Ain't Bad	Meat Loaf	0
G 3	Gimme Three Steps	Lynyrd Skynyrd	S
G B (500 M)	l'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)	The Proclaimers	I
5	Take Five	Dave Brubeck	Т
W D 4 U	I Would Die 4 U	Prince	I
25 <u>6</u> 7 4	25 or 6 to 4	Chicago	0
19th B	19th Nervous Breakdown	Rolling Stones	Ν
N A	Seven Nation Army	White Stripes	7
D A W	Eight Days a Week	Beatles	8
D 63 ( W A N)	December '63 (Oh What a Night)	The Four Seasons	0
7	7 Rings	Ariana Grande	R
L P N	Love Potion No. 9	The Searchers	9

#### 9. Remix solution

Each rule is given below, along with the untransformed clue, the answer, the transformed answer, and the extracted letter.

The eleven transformed answers are all shades of blue, and the extracted letters spell the name of noted blues singer **BESSIE SMITH**.

1	CORNCTRLONDELTHEESCBLANKT	\B	
	Clue: CORN ON THE BLANK	Answer: COB	
	Rule: Prepend a computer keyboard key	Transformed: COBALT (3/6)	В
2	TINGERXHOSECIGIITXASLISSGROM	ABSOSE	
	Clue: SINGER WHOSE BIG HIT WAS KISS FROM A ROSE	Answer: SEAL	
	Rule: Move first letter one place forward in alphabet	Transformed: TEAL (2/4)	E
3	GLYDEDOWNHYLLLYKELYNDSEYV	ONN	
	Clue: GLIDE DOWNHILL LIKE LINDSEY VONN	Answer: SKI	
	Rule: Change I to Y	Transformed: SKY (1/3)	S
4	PNOITATIPICERMGNIXIRNIAADNS	WON	
	Clue: PRECIPITATION MIXING RAIN AND SNOW	Answer: SLEET	
	Rule: Reverse all but the first letter	Transformed: STEEL (1/5)	S
5	USAUTRALIANILWIDOGDOROFRM INLIE	AMFAOUSERMEYLTRSTEEP	
	Clue: AUSTRALIAN WILD DOG FROM FAMOUS MERYL STREEP LINE	Answer: DINGO	
	Rule: Move first letter after third, followed by duplicated second letter	Transformed: INDIGO (1/6)	I
6	LZUNDMZUASUREEZUUALLING4Z	U40SZUUAREYZURDS	
	Clue: LAND MEASURE EQUALLING 4840 SQUARE YARDS	Answer: ACRE	
	Rule: Change second letter to ZU	Transformed: AZURE (5/5)	E
7	PRESIDENTPOFPMOSCOWPORPST	PPETERSBURG	
	Clue: RESIDENT OF MOSCOW OR ST PETERSBURG	Answer: RUSSIAN	
	Rule: Prepend P	Transformed: PRUSSIAN (4/8)	S
8	WODRIGHTTHTAIGHTCNAIGHTFC MASTREIGHTROIGHTNEVREIGHT	DLLWOIGHTHIEVIGHT	
	Clue: WORD THAT CAN FOLLOW HIVE MASTER OR NEVER	Answer: MIND	
	Rule: Reverse last two letters and append IGHT	Transformed: MIDNIGHT (1/8)	М
9	PEOIBTOXPERITEATMENTPEAITRG	ET	
	Clue: BOTOX TREATMENT TARGET	Answer: WRINKLE	
	Rule: Remove 2nd letter, surround it with PEI, append that string to front	Transformed: PERIWINKLE (4/10)	I
10	ANBCYDOEFMESTICFEGHLINE		
	Clue: ANY DOMESTIC FELINE	Answer: CAT	

	Rule: Take two letters alphabetically after 1st letter, insert after 2nd	Transformed: CADET (5/5)	Т
11	HAPPOBBITSHAPPOMEIAPPNLAPP	ORDOAPPFTAPPHERAPPINC	GS
	Clue: HOBBITS HOME IN LORD OF THE RINGS	Answer: SHIRE	
	Rule: Insert APP after the first letter	Transformed: SAPPHIRE (5/8)	Н

# 10. Border Crossings solution

The country pairs (and their disaggregated capitals) are shown below.

In each pair there is exactly one letter that is in the same position in both country names. Those letters, in order, spell the answer **UNITED NATIONS**.

Letter	COUNTRY 1	Country 2	CAPITAL 1	Capital 2
U	UKRAINE	URUGUAY	KIEV	MONTEVIDEO
Ν	JAPAN	YEMEN	ТОКҮО	SANAA
I	CHILE	HAITI	SANTIAGO	PORT-AU-PRINCE
Т	TANZANIA	THAILAND	DODOMA	BANGKOK
E	GR <b>E</b> ECE	SW <b>E</b> DEN	ATHENS	STOCKHOLM
D	EL SALVA <b>D</b> OR	SOUTH SU <b>D</b> AN	SAN SALVADOR	JUBA
N	NEPAL	NIGER	KATHMANDU	NIAMEY
А	CHINA	LIBY <b>A</b>	BEIJING	TRIPOLI
Т	AUS <b>T</b> RIA	VIE <b>T</b> NAM	VIENNA	HANOI
I	INDIA	ITALY	NEW DELHI	ROME
0	M <b>O</b> ZAMBIQUE	S <b>O</b> UTH KOREA	MAPUTO	SEOUL
N	FRANCE	GUINEA	PARIS	CONAKRY
S	HONDURAS	barbado <b>s</b>	TEGUCIGALPA	BRIDGETOWN

# 11. Coming to Terms solution

When the two puzzles are solved, there are several cells that are the same in both grids. Highlighted below, these give the numbers 4, 9, 1, 2, 15, 12, 9, 3, 1, 12. Converting these numbers to letters spells the answer **DIA-BOLICAL**.

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

12. Greeks vs. Romans solution

The diagram below shows the moves that each piece makes.

The path taken by the Black knight spells out another name for the oracle at delphi, which clues the answer **Pythia**.

The path taken by the White knight spells out VILLAIN WHO RACES WITH BEN-HUR IN FILM, which clues the answer **MESSALA**.



# 13. Who Are We? solution

The solutions to the clues are given below, along with explanations. When strung together, the answers spell out the clue ABOLITIONISTS JACKSON AND CRANDALL, whose first names are **FRANCIS** and **PRUDENCE**, the two solutions to this puzzle.

- 1. ABO metABOlism, seABOrne, lavABOs; also found as blood types
- 2. LIT synonyms (drunk, exciting, not pitch-black, fine writing); TIL reversed
- 3. ION potION, billION, passION, erosion
- 4. ISTS <u>It's surely this simple</u> (initials); as a suffix, means "adherents"
- 5. JACK Jack Black (actor), Jack White (musician); card between 10 and queen
- 6. SON A classic riddle
- 7. AND FANBOYS is a mnemonic for the conjunctions for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so
- 8. C Each part of the verse is a meaning of C or c
- 9. RAND South African currency, senator Rand Paul; erRAND, RANDomly
- 10. ALL ALLigators, swALLows, shALLows, gALLeries, digitALLy

#### 14. Japanese Puzzle Boxes solution

The table below shows the eight categories and the items in each column. The letters extracted at the end spell the answer **VANNA WHITE**.

Dressings	Languages	Ungulates	Synonyms of PUZZLE	New York Cities	PDA Manufacturers	Trees	Arm Parts
	JAPANESE		PUZZLE			BOX	
	MANDARIN		PERPLEX			BAOBAB	
	ARABIC		FLUMMOX			BALSA	
	PUNJABI		CONFUSE			LAUREL	
	PORTUGUESE		BAFFLE			ALMOND	
RUSSIAN	RUSSIAN	BUFFALO	BUFFALO	BUFFALO	PALM	PALM	PALM
GREEN GODDESS	TURKISH	GIRAFFE	BAMBOOZLE	ALBANY	APPLE	MAPLE	ARMPIT
CAESAR	BURMESE	LLAMA	BEMUSE	NEW YORK	BLACKBERRY	ASPEN	WRIST
RANCH	GREEK	CAMEL	BEFUDDLE	SYRACUSE	MOTOROLA	CYPRESS	RADIUS
VINAIGRETTE	GERMAN	ANTELOPE	BEWILDER	ROCHESTER	NOKIA	CHESTNUT	SHOULDER

# 15. Thirders and Halfers solution

Here are the reassembled clues and their answers:

# Thirders

1. French Sudan, today (4)	MALI
2. Lakers' owner Jerry (4)	BUSS
3. Desegregation pioneer Leona (4)	TATE
4. Surgeon Antoine- Hippolyte (4)	CROS
5. Participate in karaoke (4)	SING
6. Endorse a check (4)	SIGN
7. NWA definite article (3)	THA
8. "America" lyric contraction (3)	TIS
Halfers	
1. 500, in Roman numerals (1)	D
2. Symbol for carbon (1)	С
3. Opposite of acid, chemically (4)	BASE
4. Event for Cinderella (4)	BALL
5. Nam (fish sauce) (3)	PLA
6. With "out," an ump's call (3)	YER
7. Took a chair (3)	SAT
8. Big coffee server (3)	URN
9. Winter time zone in Nova Scotia (3)	AST
10. Royal title for Haile Selassie (3)	RAS

The answers can be put together, in order, to form five more clues:

#### Thirders

11. Golfer's shout (4)

12. Paddington or Fozzie (4)

1. MALIBU'S STATE	CA
2. CROSSING SIGN	RR
3. THAT IS	IE

# Halfers

1.	DC BASEBALL PLAYER	NAT
2.	SATURN ASTRA'S FOREBEAR	ION

Those strings, reassembled, spell out the answer CARRIE NATION.

# 16. Transatlantic solution

The five clues with extra words are:

9A (these), 12A (answers), 14A (make), 26A (another), 29A (clue) = These answers make another clue.

The clue is: STATE BOND AUTHOR SHORTENED ELEVEN

State bond author shortened (11) = CONNECT + I + CUT = CONNECTICUT



FORE

BEAR

Down
1 MASC + A + RA (MAC's anagram)
<b>2</b> GUA(m) + RANTE(d) + E
3 IG + ETA + ROUND
4 UN(in)TENDED
5 KOOK palindrome
6 initial letters; &lit
<b>7</b> (gr $\rightarrow$ TW)IDDLE
8 double definition
13 Mail Elinor anagram
<b>16</b> GOR(BACH)E + V
17 DI(S + HON)OR
18 GAW + KSAT (reversal)
20 T(EST R + U)N (rest anagram)
22 F(L)ORA
24 homophone ("rued")
25 reversal

#### 17. Skyscrapers of Hanoi solution

The answers to the clues (given below) can be sorted into the rings according to rules, as noted below, that are related to the names of the skyscrapers. When the answers have all been placed properly, the extracted letters can be read left to right, top to bottom, to spell the clue WORLD'S TALLEST IS FOUR SEVEN, which clues the world's tallest building, the **BURJ KHALIFA**.



#### 18. Big Secrets solution

The puzzle answers (plus A.J. and Greg, as described) can all be associated with the Major Arcana (major = big, arcana = secrets) in a traditionall deck of tarot cards.

The intro text to this puzzle says "A.J. approaches his work with joyful exuberance, willing to step into the unknown without fear of failure or embarrassment," which describes the Fool. The text says Greg is "a clever trickster, conjuring mental delights from thin air"—thus the Magician.

The chart below shows the other correspondences, along with the letter that is extracted from each associated answer.

<sup>1</sup> The nontraditional Rider-Waite deck swaps the positions of Justice and Strength.

No.	Tarot Card	Associated Answer	Index	Letter
0	The Fool	AJ	_	—
1	The Magician	GREG	—	—
2	The High Priestess	PYTHIA (High Priestess of Delphi)	3	Т
3	The Empress	BESSIE SMITH (Empress of the Blues)	11	Н
4	The Emperor	NEW CLOTHES	2	E
5	The Hierophant	FRANCIS (Pope Francis)	1	F
6	The Lovers	BRANGELINA	3	А
7	The Chariot	MESSALA (Ben Hur's rival charioteer)	4	S
8	Justice	OUTFIELDER (David Justice)	3	Т
9	The Hermit	CRAB	3	А
10	Wheel of Fortune	VANNA WHITE	3	N
11	Strength	DOUBLE BOND	1	D
12	The Hanged Man	NECKTIE	5	Т
13	Death	HOMICIDE LIFE ON THE STREET	1	Н
14	Temperance	CARRIE NATION	6	E
15	The Devil	DIABOLICAL	8	С
16	The Tower	BURJ KHALIFA	2	U
17	The Star	SIRIUS	3	R
18	The Moon	10	1	I
19	The Sun	CONNECTICUT (WNBA team)	2	0
20	Judgement	PRUDENCE	3	U
21	The World	UNITED NATIONS	13	S

The extracted letters spell out what kinds of people make for excellent puzzle solvers: **THE FAST AND THE CURIOUS**.

# Acknowledgments

#### FROM A.J.:

The book I wrote immediately before *The Puzzler* was about my quest to thank one thousand people who had even the smallest role in making my morning cup of coffee. I'm not going to thank a thousand people here. But honestly, I'm going to come close. This is because I could not have written this book without the help of so many generous people: puzzlemakers, solvers, readers, editors, and ex-CIA agents. So here goes:

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