

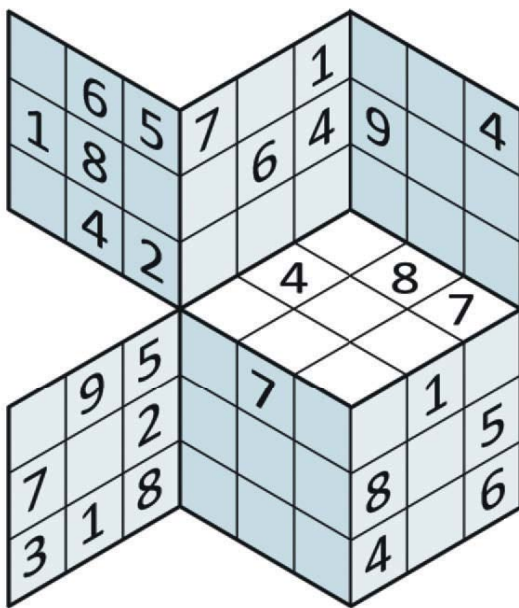
Samurai Sudoku No 926 — Medium

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

Tredoku

No 1840 —
Hard

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



Square Routes®

No 273 — Medium

Ian Simpson & Richard Heald

				*
	*	*	*	
	*			
*		*		*
		*		

BOTTLE
CHURN
FLOAT
ROUND
SHAKE
TEETH
THISTLE

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

Sudoku No 14,960 — Fiendish

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

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

Stuck on KenKen, Killer or Sudoku?

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

Killer No 9499 — Deadly

9	19		17		16		5	
			7			23		13
23				9				
20		8		21		20		
		10			12			
18			20			20		25
	17		9					
	20		24		3	11	6	

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

KenKen No 6222 — Medium

1-		6+			12×
3÷	24×	60×		2	
		60×		2÷	
4-					12+
24×		10+	5+	9+	

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

Cryptic Quintagram®

Solve all five cryptic clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Back payment for public transport (3)

2 Having bottle of pennies: fortunate! (6)

3 Mostly swear by a graduate, one you can count on (6)

4 Twisted viewpoint held by Dublin parliamentarian (7)

5 New Orleans pal, one catching Ray on roof? (5,5)

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
A	A	A	A	A	B	B	C
C	D	E	E	G	K	L	L
L	L	N	N	O	P	P	R
S	S	S	T	U	U	U	Y

Word Watch

David Parfitt

Retree

- a. To go to bed
- b. A backward step
- c. Imperfectly made paper

Fustianist

- a. A busybody
- b. A bombastic writer
- c. One unwilling to change

Volapuk

- a. An early space probe
- b. An artificial language
- c. A hockey-like sport

Nodated

- a. Knotted
- b. Of no fixed time
- c. Set down in writing

Scrabble® Paul Gallen

In my column of March 23, I discussed the term “case tile”. It refers to a single unplayed tile that can be used to form the only hook of an existing word on the board. The most common instance of a case tile scenario is where there is only one S tile remaining that can pluralise a particular word, but the situation can arise with any letter. This week’s column relates to an extraordinary case tile scenario, with the creator of the opportunity ultimately winning the game because of it.

The game in question was a recent encounter between the former US national champion Josh Sokol and the former world champion Brett Smitheram. Trailing by nearly 100 points, Sokol decided to play GUE (B10d) for 11 points below the triple-world score lane in row A. This was a clever move as GUE takes a front hook of A, to form AGUE, and Sokol held the last A on his rack. Furthermore, the area became almost impossible for Smitheram to block.

Sokol’s plan thereafter was to engineer a bonus word in row A. He committed to this on his tenth move when he refused a higher-scoring move in favour of his actual choice of BY (A15d) for 34 points. Can you find the 50-point move that was available

to Sokol using the rack and board extract below?

A B D O R V Y

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

Sokol kept himself within range of Smitheram. With his penultimate rack, Sokol played TED (J7d) for 11 points, keeping AORVW, to empty the bag and reduce the deficit to 41 points. Smitheram then extended his lead with FIEST (D15d) for 43 points.

Can you find Sokol’s winning bonus word in response, using the main board and his final rack below?

A E E O R V W

Definitions

- GUE a type of violin used in Shetland
- AGUE a periodic fever with shivering

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

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

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

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

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Chess David Howell

Play it again

One hundred years after the founding of FIDE, it seems fitting that the 2024 Casablanca tournament featured positions taken from historic world championship matches.

The four-player tournament was staged at the Moroccan city’s elegant Mahkamat al-Pasha, a courthouse built around the time of the filming of the Hollywood classic *Casablanca*. The unique format required players to “play it again” from selected opening positions based on world championship matches of the past.

The four modern players — hailing from four continents — were given only a few minutes to familiarise themselves with the positions before the clocks started. The resulting rapid games provided a fascinating contrast with the approaches taken by former world champions such as Wilhelm Steinitz, Mikhail Botvinnik, Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov.

Inviting Viswanathan Anand, a semi-retired five-time world champion, and the Egyptian grandmaster Bassem Amin gave the event a nice sense of grandeur, but the race for first place essentially boiled down to a duel between longtime rivals Magnus Carlsen and Hikaru Nakamura.

The format suited Carlsen, who is renowned for his study (and near-photographic memory) of classic historical games. Indeed, Carlsen ran out the comfortable winner with 4.5 points from 6 games ahead of Nakamura on 3.5, Anand on 3 and Amin on 1.

In his victory over Nakamura, Carlsen was able to show a new twist on the play from the epic Kasparov-Karpov clashes of the 1980s.

White: Hikaru Nakamura
Black: Magnus Carlsen
Casablanca Chess 2024
Sicilian Defence
1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nc6 5 Nc3 d6 6 g4 h6 7 h4 a6 8 Bg2 Be7 9 Be3 Nxd4 10 Qxd4 e5 11 Qd1 Be6

a b c d e f g h

This starting position occurred in Game 14 of the second Karpov-Kasparov match in 1985. The resulting middlegame has a 21st-century feel to it, with a Sveshnikov-style weakness on d5 and provocative yet trendy early king-side pawn advances for White. 12 Nd5 Nakamura chooses the same move played by Karpov, threatening to win material with 13 Bb6. 12...Rc8 13 c3 In his game against Amin, Anand took the bait with 13...Bxb4. This prompted a repetition of moves after 14 Bb6 Qg5 15 Be3 Qd8 16 Bb6. 13...Nf6 14 Nxe7 Kxe7 Carlsen deviates from Kas-

parov’s 14...Qxe7, giving up castling rights. Back in 1985 such a bold concept would have caused a stir. 15 g5 Ng4 16 Be1 White threatens to trap the black knight with 17 f3. 16...hxg5 17 Bf3? Inaccurate. 17 f3 was advisable, to eject the troublesome knight. 17...Qd7 18 Rg1 Nh2 Amazingly, in a post-game interview Carlsen correctly identified the position as coming from a Karpov-Kasparov match. Despite not being born at the time, Carlsen recalled the journey of the black knight in that particular battle. A sign that studying chess history can improve general understanding and directly improve one’s results. 19 Bxg5+ 19 Be2 g4, Black will soon trade his knight for the white light-squared bishop, with a long-term advantage. 19...f6 20 Be3 Rcg8 21 h5 Nxf3+ 22 Qxf3 Qb5 23 Be1 A sad retreat. 23 b3 Qd3 would have been equally uncomfortable. 23...Bf7 24 Rh1 Qa4 25 Qe2 d5 26 exd5 Bxd5 Black’s dominance of the light squares gives him the upper hand in this opposite-coloured bishop dynamic. 27 Rh2 Qe6 28 f4? Nakamura loses patience and lashes out. 28 Rh3 was necessary, though things remain difficult. 28...Bf3 29 Qe3 Rxb5 30 Rxb5 Bxb5 31 fxe5 Re8! Lining up against the exposed white king. 32 Qg1 Kf7 33 Be3 Rxe5 34 Kd2 Qd5+ 35 Kcl Rxe3! White resigns. 26 Qxe3 Qd1 is checkmate.

Winning Move

White to Play. Anand-Amin, Casablanca 2024. White has several tempting options. Which move leads to a win?

a b c d e f g h

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

Solution to last week’s puzzle: 1...Qxh5+! wins: 2 Qxh5 (2 Rg4 Bf4) 2...Rxc1+! 3 Kxc1 Bf4+ 4 Kdl c2+ 5 Kel c1Q+ 6 Kf2 (6 Qdl Qe3+) 6...Qe3+ 7 Kg2 Qg3 mate.

The winner is Chris March of Briston, Norfolk. The runners up are Mike Marlow of Bicester, Oxfordshire, and Tony Pagan of London NW6

Codeword No 5230

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

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

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

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

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

times2 Crossword No 9546

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

- Across**
- 7 Significant long-awaited advance (12)
 - 9 Capital city of Libya (7)
 - 10 Rouse from sleep (5)
 - 11 Handhold (4)
 - 12 Place where official lists are stored (8)
 - 15 Tarried, waited (8)
 - 17 Liveliness, vigour (4)
 - 19 Part of a long wedding dress (5)

- 21 Reprimand, chide (7)
- 22 Not concerned with mundane affairs (12)

- Down**
- 1 Point at which a plan begins to yield tangible results (8)
 - 2 Swampy tributary of south USA; a buoy (*anagram*) (5)
 - 3 Apparel (6)
 - 4 Girlguiding member of seven to ten years of age (7)
 - 5 Male rabbit (4)
 - 6 Urban settlements of ramshackle housing (6,5)
 - 8 Problematic economic phenomenon (11)
 - 13 Device controlling the flow of fuel to an engine (8)
 - 14 Spacecraft's return into Earth's atmosphere (2-5)
 - 16 Deed empowering a third-party to mediate in a financial transaction (6)
 - 18 Motoring event (5)
 - 20 Feeling of soreness (4)

Solution to Crossword 9545

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

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

Mindset by 700

1. The following words can be divided into five sets of size 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Each set is associated with a word of that length, and these words grow incrementally (eg A-AN-PAN-PAIN-PAINT).

What are the sets?

- | | | | | |
|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| BECAME | CLOT | DOLLY | KITTY | MAMMAL |
| OR | POSSUM | SALT | SLIT | SLOW |
| SPOT | THREE | TOED | TWO | WIFE |

2. My watch displays time in the 24 hour format HH:MM:SS. **How many seconds a day are all six digits different?**

3. Which capitals have been removed from the following words?
H, HE, MAD*L, MET*C, RUB*ECK, SUB*TE, TIM*E

Literary Quiz

The Times Literary Desk

Can't Shake the Blues

Name the authors of these low-spirited novels

1. *The Mystery of the Blue Train*, 1928
2. *The Bluest Eye*, 1970
3. *A Spool of Blue Thread*, 2015
4. *So Much Blue*, 2017

Solutions

Friday's solutions

KenKen No 6221

32x	2	4	1	5	3	6
90x	6	1	4	3	5	2
6+	5	2	3	1	6	4
1-	3	6	5	4	2	1
10+	4	5	2	6	1	3
2-	1	3	6	2	4	5

Sudoku No 14,955

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

Sudoku No 14,956

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

Sudoku No 14,957

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

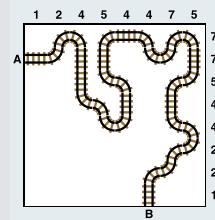
Killer No 9496

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

Killer No 9497

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

Train Tracks No 2258



Codeword No 5229

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

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

The Listener 4815 Creature Feature by Sabre
 The encoding used "Aunt Jobiska's Runcible Cat", from "He has gone to fish, for his Aunt Jobiska's / Runcible Cat with crimson whiskers!" in Edward Lear's *The Pobble Who Has No Toes*. "He" was replaced by a fish in 1ac, 17, 36 and 18. The letters highlighted in crimson are a jumble of "whiskers". More details at listenercrossword.com. The winners are M Day of London N6; Patrick Phair of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire; PS Clough of Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire.

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

Solution to Cryptic Jumbo 1674

The winner is Jean Hancock of Raglan, Usk, Gwent

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

Solution to times2 Jumbo 1674

The winner is David Whitehill of Hastings, E Sussex

Cell Blocks 5112

2	2	3
3	2	2
6		3
6		
8	2	
	3	
7		

Suko 4131

8	4	2
20	13	
7	1	6
22	19	
5	9	3

Mindset

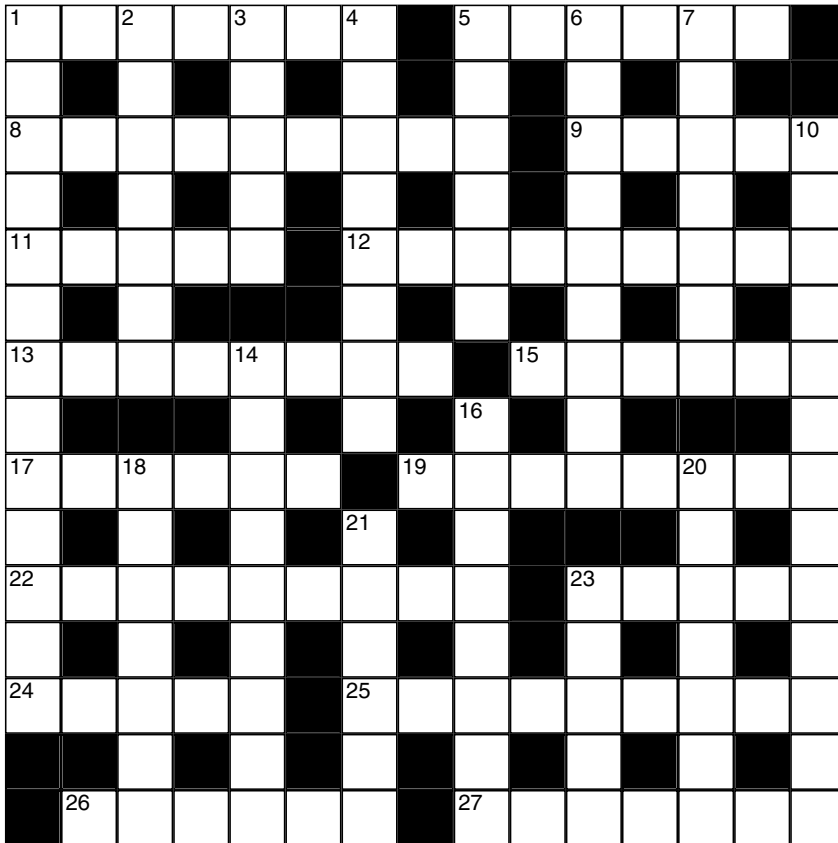
1. Sets are {POSSUM} — can be preceded by O to form another animal; {DOLLY, KITTY} — follow Hello (LO); {WIFE, BECAME, SALT} — LOT; {CLOT, SLIT, SLOW, SPOT} — one letter away from SLOT; {TWO, OR, THREE, TOED, MAMMAL} — SLOTH.
 2. 9480. 13 HH's do not contain 6, 7, 8 or 9. For these there remain 4 and 3 choices respectively for the first M and S digits, and then 6 and 5 choices respectively for the second M and S digits. 8 HH's do contain 6, 7, 8 or 9. For these there remain 5 and 4 choices respectively for the first M and S digits, and then 6 and 5 choices respectively for the second M and S digits. $13*(4*3*6*5) + 8*(5*4*6*5) = 9480$.
 3. PARISH, heATHENS,

madRIGAl, metHANOic, rubBERNeck, subLIMate, timBERLine.

Word Watch

Retree (c) Imperfectly made paper (*Collins*) **Fustianist** (b) A bombastic writer (*Chambers*) **Volapuk** (b) An artificial language (*OED*) **Nodated** (a) Knotted (*Collins*). **Polygon** etui, fruit, **furniture**, future, inure, nurture, rerun, returnf, return, ruin, rune, runt, rutin, triune, true, tune, tuner, turf, turn, turner, unfit, unit, unite, untie, untrue, urine. **Scrabble** OVARY (A8a); OVERAWE (A6a) — 97 points. **Literary quiz** 1 Agatha Christie 2 Toni Morrison 3 Anne Tyler 4 Percival Everett. **Cryptic Quintagram** 1 Bus 2 Plucky 3 Abacus 4 Tangled 5 Solar panel.

Times Crossword No 28,932



Across

- 1 Place to rest cod meat at first (7)
- 5 At university, attend jolly (6)
- 8 Dialogue in part of theatre displays great virtue (9)
- 9 Saw is good, cutting hardware evenly (5)
- 11 Partridge possibly poked by small lion (5)
- 12 Staff periodically seem jumpy, getting menacing order (5,2,2)
- 13 Behave fearfully, showing weakness (8)
- 15 Smoother Liberal's shaken off disparagement (6)
- 17 No longer compose kind of music that includes tango (6)
- 19 Gloat about awful boss? One may get fired (8)
- 22 Gibbon? Surprisingly, it's a rhino (9)
- 23 Revolutionary's remark when leaving millions to the left (5)

- 24 Minor surgery ultimately prohibited by hospital (5)
- 25 Join together where fire may be burning, but not hot (9)
- 26 High dosage for salt (3,3)
- 27 Giant vehicle briefly works (7)

Down

- 1 Merry Andrew welcoming May and, to an inappropriate degree, August (4,3,6)
- 2 The setter lacking sparkle and a bit of cerebral matter (7)
- 3 Love rise of kind of film stars (5)
- 4 Meet up wearing rubbish garment for football (4-4)
- 5 International group's assistance is possibly implied (6)
- 6 Heading for bistro, want good deal or diabolical service? (5,4)
- 7 Vacant arsenal equipped with a security system (7)
- 10 Cheeky jester clad in old cape one's invited to court (6,7)
- 14 Intended that man to support left-winger in plot (9)
- 16 Going on Twitch, relative and I like hard rock (8)
- 18 Challenge and fail to grasp leader in Sunday Express (7)
- 20 Live between ice mass and old Alpine city (7)
- 21 Displaying fab bit of bling (6)
- 23 Maybe tricks soldier protected from the rain? (5)

Solution No 28,931

