Samurai Sudoku No 926 - Medium


## Tredoku

No 1840 Hard
Tredoku is similar to Sudoku: the digits 1 to 9 must appear once only in each $3 x 3$ box and in each line of nine consecutive cells. However, since the puzzle is threedimensional, the lines may be straight or bent around angles. Follow each line's direction in search of clues.

## Square Routes ${ }^{\circledR}$

No 273 - Medium
Ian Simpson \& Richard Heald


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

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

Stuck on KenKen, Killer or Sudoku?
Call 09012936263 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, 03332023390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Killer No 9499 - Deadly


Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every $3 \times 3$ 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


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 ${ }^{\text {® }}$
Solve all five cryptic clues using each letter underneath once only 1 Back payment for public transport (3)
$\overline{2}$ Having bottle of pennies: fortunate! (6)
$\overline{3}$ Mostly swear by a graduate, one you can count on (6)
$\overline{4}$ Twisted viewpoint held by Dublin parliamentarian (7)
$\overline{5}$ New Orleans pal, one catching Ray on roof? $(5,5)$

$$
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c} 
\\
\hline \text { A } & \text { A } & \text { A } & \text { A } & \text { A } & \text { B } & \text { B } & \text { C } \\
\hline \mathrm{C} & \mathrm{D} & \mathrm{E} & \mathrm{E} & \mathrm{G} & \mathrm{~K} & \mathrm{~L} & \mathrm{~L} \\
\hline \mathrm{~L} & \mathrm{~L} & \mathrm{~N} & \mathrm{~N} & \mathrm{O} & \mathrm{P} & \mathrm{P} & \mathrm{R} \\
\hline \mathrm{~S} & \mathrm{~S} & \mathrm{~S} & \mathrm{~T} & \mathrm{U} & \mathrm{U} & \mathrm{U} & \mathrm{Y}
\end{array}
$$

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 ${ }^{\circledR}$ 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 (Al5d) for 34 points. Can you find the 50-point move that was available
to Sokol using the rack and board extract below?


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 (Dl5d) for 43 points.

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

## A, $E, \quad \mathbf{O}, \quad \mathbf{W}$

## 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.

21 double letter square (dl)
$\qquad$ triple letter square (tl) $\qquad$ double word square (dw)


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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 e 4 c 52 Nf 3 e 63 d 4 cxd 44 Nxd 4
Nc6 5 Nc3 d6 6 g4 h6 7 h4 a6 8 Bg2 Be79Be3Nxd410 Qxd4e511 Qd1 Be6


This starting position occurred in Game 14 of the second KarpovKasparov match in 1985. The resulting middlegame has a 21stcentury feel to it, with a Sveshni-kov-style weakness on d 5 and provocative yet trendy early kingside pawn advances for White. 12 Nd5 Nakamura chooses the same move played by Karpov, threatening to win material with 13 Bb 6 . 12...Rc8 13 c3 In his game against Amin, Anand took the bait with 13...Bxh4. This prompted a repetition of moves after 14 Bb 6 Qg 515 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 g 5 Ng 416 Bcl Whitethreat ens to trap the black knight with 17 f3. 16...hxg5 17 Bf3? Inaccurate. 17 f3 was advisable, to eject the troub lesome knight. 17...Qd7 18 Rg Nh2 Amazingly, in a post-game in terview Carlsen correctly identi fied 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 understand ing and directly improve one's results. 19 Bxg5+ If 19 Be 2 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 Qxf Qb5 23 Bcl A sad retreat. 23 b3 Qd3 would have been equally un comfortable. 23...Bf7 24 Rhl Oa 25 Qe2 d5 26 exd5 Bxd5 Black's dominance of the light square gives him the upper hand in this opposite-coloured bishop dynam ic. 27 Rh2 Qc6 28 f4? Nakamura loses patience and lashes out. 28 Rh3 was necessary, though things remain difficult. 28...Bf3 29 Oe Rxh5 30 Rxh5 Bxh5 31 fxe5 Re8! Lining up against the exposed white king. 32 Qg1 Kf7 33 Be Rxe5 34 Kd2 Qd5+ 35 Kcl Rxe3 White resigns. 26 Qxe3 Qdl is checkmate.

## Winning Move

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


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

Solution to last week's puzzle 1...Qxh5+! wins: 2 Qxh5 (2 Rg4 Bf4) 2...Rxcl+! 3 Kxcl Bf4+4 Kd c2+5Kel clQ+6Kf2(6QdlQe3+) $6 . . . \mathrm{Qe} 3+7 \mathrm{Kg} 2 \mathrm{Qg} 3$ 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



ABCDEFGH I J K L M N $\quad$ C P Q R S X 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 09012936262 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 0905757 0142. Calls cost $£ 1$ per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 03332023390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).
times2 Crossword No 9546


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)

Solution to Crossword 9545


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 (ll)
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)
Need help with today's puzzle? Call 09057570143 to check the answers. Calls cost $£ 1$ per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge SP: Spoke, 03332023390 (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 <br> 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

## The Listener Crossword No 4818 Rash by Serpent

Senders of the first three correct entries drawn will receive Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable or may choose from a selection of other books (see below). Send your entry with contact details completed to: Listener Crossword 4818, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, to arrive by June 13.

Prize options and more at listenercrossword.com

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

| 1 | 2 |  | 3 | 4 |  | 5 |  | 6 |  | 7 | 8 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 9 |  | 10 |  |  |  |  | 11 |  |  |
| 12 |  |  |  |  | 13 |  | 14 |  |  |  |  |
| 15 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 16 |  |  |  |
|  | 17 |  |  |  |  | 18 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19 |  |  |  | 20 |  | 21 |  |  | 22 |  | 23 |
| 24 | 25 |  |  |  |  |  | 26 | 27 |  |  |  |
| 28 |  | 29 | 30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 31 |  |  |  |  | 32 |  | 33 |  |  | 34 |  |
|  |  |  | 35 |  |  |  | 36 |  |  |  |  |
| 37 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 38 |  |  |  |  |  | 39 |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  | E |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Name.

Address
Postcode Phone/email

Each across clue needs a letter removed to enable solving; these letters spell out a definition of a theme word. Each down answer must have a letter removed before entry and placed in the top (for the upper entry) or bottom cell of its column. All letter removals leave real words. The completed top and bottom rows will contain five examples of the theme word that must be written below the grid. The Chambers Dictionary (2016) is the primary reference.

## Across

1 Doctor completely fending off feverish effect of dehydration (6)
5 Aid whistleblower voicing story (6)
10 Nice starter of açaí, minced lamb and rice (8)
12 Chum has money in stocks for sale (5)
13 Ship orbiting alien planets (4)
15 Related to church leader's shock having seen first adult movie (5)
16 Censor this many for daytime broadcast? (4)
17 Write rules to diminish constraints of complex two-way relationship? (11)
19 Reporter's denials soon to be projections (5)
21 Petitions chasing trendy people? (6)
24 Tempt trainee with education of approved rector (6)
26 Lived with sin of French lieutenant (5)
28 Track is reality TV show of varied skills (1l)
31 Honolulu aunt's party food she'd prepare (4)
33 Second raid ends in difficulties (5)
35 Delicate sound charmed heartless giant (4)
36 Tweak remedy for skin damage (5)
37 Equip with power supply to ruin some hoarding electric current (8)
38 Perhaps moan briefly about catch (6)
39 Commission mistaken about nuclear device's origin (6)

## Down

1 Director taking on "special one" as assistant in transfer market? (8)

2 Peculiar charm of an Italian city (5)
3 Outrun lad entering ring carrying nothing (7)
4 Hedge funds in the end due little credit (5)
5 Logic circuit that is left in version of Windows (5)
6 Switched US city with Slough (6)
7 Suppressing cover among charges for one (7)
8 Fast company cars? (5)
9 Set aside concession bank's holding back (7)
11 Tolerate Britain blocking cycling plan (5)
13 Independent in party wanting independence cherished scrap (7)
14 Unruly adolescent nurses open up wound (6)
18 Book writer recalled to stop negative billing from some (7)
20 Con gourmand out of good seafood dish (6)
22 Two numbers divided by one is not one of them (7)
23 Taken aback by flighty person in drag (8)
25 What conveys impulses of new European unity? (7)
27 Part of horse affected by bitter vetch (7)
29 Order to pay select group (5)
30 Person paying court is out to bend rule (6)
31 This semi-liquid material flows for miles (5)
32 Recalled being bored by constant criticism (5)

33 Who should be drawing great building? (5)
34 Master list includes recurring item in error (5)

LISTENER STATISTICS, plus personal record, for last year are still available to senders of an SAE (overseas stamp exempt) to JE Green at the above address. Envelopes measuring approximately $230 \times 160 \mathrm{~mm}$ may carry a normal stamp; larger envelopes will require a "Large" stamp or two normal ones.


Phone number..

9 Malpractice taking a heavy toll? $(7,7)$
0 Having no siblings? What's more jolly! (4,3)
Preface, extremely short, chap's withdrawn (11)
12 Heavily defeat, causing upset in tie 17 Amphetamine around a displaced Amphetamine around a displaced
person is something unwelcome $(3,5)$ The Dutch maybe with a life to envy! $(5,4)$
Pole, one travelling around in 22 Pole, one travelling around in
pursuit of good breeding stock $(4,4)$ 25 Waterproof cover to get bigger daily 26 Field attack often using knight's primitive weapon (9)
To be received on board coach, he had to be wasted! $(2,4,3,5)$
28 Confined to bed, I sat upright, lifting cast off $(3,5)$
31 He worked with one fine Basque 31 He worked with one fine Basque
ruler's famous visitor $(5,2,5)$ 33 Lodger when speaking knows
Italian, apparently $(6,3,2)$ Italian, apparently $(6,3,2)$
36 Second row to result from security
at hospital? $(4,7)$ 37 After end of tea break catch folk not fully prepared (2,4-4)
41 Wrong opinion one's to contradict,
interrupting rather loudly (9) interrupting rather loudly (9)
Behind can be rested on twig? No 44 Reservoir I'm disgusted to find

4 Reservoirt (7)
almost dry?
6 Reflecting determined, true
48 Tall touring basketball players refuse 50 Mustard perhaps in that is revolting cause of illness (1,4)
51 Duck sounds like cat with its tail up

Jumbo crossword No 1677

## Cryptic clues

Across
1 Pedal across river in pursuit of cold 6 drink container (9) 13 Put back, in touching scene (5) 15 Setter must have say, reflecting 16 Acknowledgement that doctor's up 18 in his practice? $(3,4$, , Live fool

18 consuming varaiable amounts ( 8 )
20 Turn to trivial attraction? Yes, if NY 21 ultimately overrated somehow (8) 23 Awkward, with tennis shot 24 Do you understand article extracted 25 Cemancient bit of Morse code? (6) 28 Yelations over ( $5,2,2$ ) 29 ones srinted currency (5,5) in the $30 \begin{aligned} & \text { audience? (4) } \\ & \text { Religious court to risk row involving }\end{aligned}$ 32 Violent storm nearly closed navy yard? Not regularly (7)
34 Round, empty space a copper's left for cell ( (4)
35 Assiduously if cheesily punned? (10) 38 Later round mine fails to explode (9) 40 Hodless book? (6) 43 Old priest cheated when clinching 45 Old jail is empty, indeed (8) females in culinary contests (4-4) 49 Picture Greek going as a result of it? 52 Port from military canteen not 53 Work that's both hard and I bet 54 One from the Middle East, not long 55 Be alert! The first hunter possibly has returned? $(5,4,4)$
56 Hear about girlfriend holding party
after film triumph $(3,4,2)$

Jumbo crossword No 1677


## Across

1 Lying down (9)
6 Green (13)
13 First premier of the Soviet Union (5)
14 Not enthusiastic and eager (9)
15 Medium for communication (7)
16 Destruction of a person's reputation $(9,13)$
18 The birds of a particular habitat (8)
20 American term for swede (8)
21 Finish, end (5)
23 Sounding like a plucked string (6)
24 Language of Nigeria and Benin (6)
25 All-consuming, compulsive (9)
28 Cheese-filled tortilla (10)
29 Book of the Bible (4)
30 Aerial (7)
32 Involve in difficulties or delays (7)
34 Game played on horseback (4)
35 Placate, pacify (10)
38 Small plant growing on walls (9)
39 Structure for extracting fuel $(3,3)$
40 Of varying types (6)
43 Fragrant shrub or tree (5)

45 Expressing a desire or wish (8)
47 Guiding light; read lots (anagram) (8)
49 Policy of favouring those belonging
to unfairly treated groups $(8,14)$
52 Littoral (7)
53 Italian dictator (9)
54 Leg joint (5)
55 Not having enough work (13)
56 Type of biscuit $(6,3)$

## Down

1 Unwilling and hesitant (9)
2 Expose to pollution (11)
3 Passion, craze (5)
4 Triumphantly elated (8)
5 Hypothesis (6)
6 (Of relationships) excessively close and resistant to outside influence (10)
7 Elaborate and spectacular entertainment (12)
8 Italian governor or judge (7)
9 Military observation of an area (14)
10 Stretchy (7)
11 Comfort after a loss or disappointment (11)

12 Lacking interest; matt (4)
17 Regard with great respect (8)
19 Make (an illness) worse (9)
22 Sweet on a stick (8)
25 Large choral and orchestral work (8)

26 Body orbiting a planet (9)
27 Five bases of faith of which the haj is one $(7,2,5)$
28 In a nauseous manner (8)
31 Eager to kill and maim (12)
33 Rare large mountain cat $(4,7)$
36 Filled with reverential respect (3-8)
37 Small keyboard instrument (10)
41 (Of requirements) strict and exacting (9)

42 Act of willing or choosing (8)
44 US term for a living animal
( $E$, not $U$ ) (7)
46 Relating to heat (7)
48 Scandinavian adventurer (6)
50 Succulent plant (5)
51 Colour of unbleached linen (4)

Bridge Andrew Robson
Question: What do you call AKJ10872? Answer: trumps. However, it appeared North's unselfishness at tabling those lovely diamonds as dummy at Table One had paid off on this week's deal from the Mind Sports Games Open Trials.
Dealer South E-W Vul

(1) The height of unselfishness. Put me down for a 3 bid here - even though the bid is theoretically gameforcing (the only way you can stop out of game after partner's jump-
repeat is to pass it).

Declarer ducked West's spade lead, winning the second spade with his ace. He cashed the ace-king of clubs, pleased to observe East's queen and drew West's last trump with the jack.

With no access to dummy, it apppears declarer must lose all three hearts, having to lead the suit out of his hand. However, at trick five declarer exited with the jack of hearts, hoping West held the queen.

West won the queen (as he had to) but, out of spades (because of declarer's trick-one spade duck), and obviously unwilling to switch to a diamond and bring dummy to life, West had to lead a second heart. And now, after East beat West's ten with the ace, declarer's king of hearts was promoted. A cute way to make a ninth trick.
Meanwhile ..
Table Two

(1) Hoping partner can bid 3NT with eg AQx. I think $3 A$ implies an antipositional spade holding here; South can bid $3 \vee$ if he needs partner to have a whole spade stopper.

North, Andrew Black, captain of the eventual winners, won East's king of spades lead and cashed the ace-king of clubs, throwing a spade. Seeing the queen fall, he followed with the promoted jack of clubs, discarding his last spade.
East ruffed the third club at the cost of his natural trump trick - and tried the queen of spades. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ace-king of diamonds (felling East's queen) and followed with the jack, drawing West's last trump.

At trick nine, declarer led up a heart. I'm sure Black would a have guessed correctly but he was not put to the test, East rising with the ace ("use it, or lose it"). That was 11 tricks and game made.

Polygon Roger Phillips


Using the given letters no more than once, make as many words as possible of four or more letters, always including the central letter. Capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense
etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives etc), adverbs ending in LY, comp
and superlatives are disallowed.
and superlatives are disallowed.
27, good; 31, very good; 35, excellent.

## Cell Blocks 5113



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

Train
Tracks No 2259

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


## Solutions

## Solution to last week's Samurai Sudoku

| $\begin{array}{\|c} 9 \\ 1 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l} \hline 5 \\ 8 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |  | $\begin{array}{ll} \hline 6 & 8 \\ 5 & 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | 4 |  | $\begin{array}{\|l\|l} \hline 3 & 2 \\ 6 & 4 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  | 7 <br> 1 |  | 3 | 5 | 9 |  | 8 | 1 | 3 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 3 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 72 | 1 | 8 | 8 |  | 9 |  |  |  |  | 5 |  | 6 | 1 | 4 |  | 3 | 2 | 9 |  |  |
| 2 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 15 | 3 | 7 | 8 |  | 6 |  |  |  |  | 2 |  | 1 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 8 |  |  |
| 6 | 7 | 8 |  | 49 | 2 | 1 | 13 |  | 5 |  |  |  | 6 | 3 |  | 4 | 8 | 1 |  | 9 | 5 | 7 |  |  |
| 5 | 1 | 3 |  | 87 | 6 | 2 | 9 |  | 4 |  |  |  | 5 | 9 |  | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 6 |  |  |
| 8 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 24 | 5 | 9 | 7 |  | 3 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 6 |  | 5 | 3 | 7 |  | 4 | 9 | 1 |  |  |
| 4 | 2 | 2 |  | 36 | 7 | 5 | 1 |  | 8 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 4 |  | 7 | 9 | 8 |  | 1 | 6 | 2 |  |  |
| 7 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 91 | 8 | 4 | 46 |  | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 8 |  | 9 | 6 | 5 |  | 2 | 7 | 4 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 7 | 7 |  | 6 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 9 |  | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 83 |  | 9 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 2 |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 | 5 |  | 1 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 7 |  | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | 9 | 3 |  | 26 | 7 | 1 | 18 |  | 5 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 3 |  | 4 | 2 | 9 |  | 5 | 6 | 8 |  |  |
| 8 | 5 | 51 |  | 34 | 9 | 6 | 2 |  | 7 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 1 |  | 8 | 3 | 6 |  | 7 | 4 | 2 |  |  |
| 7 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 58 | 1 | 3 | 39 |  | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 5 |  | 2 | 4 | 8 |  | 1 | 7 | 3 |  |  |
| 1 | 2 | 2 |  | 95 | 3 | 7 | 76 |  | 8 |  |  |  | 2 | 8 |  | 1 | 7 | 4 |  | 3 | 9 | 5 |  |  |
| 9 | 8 | 86 | 7 | 71 | 4 | 2 | 5 |  | 3 |  |  |  | 5 | 7 |  | 3 | 9 | 2 |  | 6 | 8 | 1 |  |  |
| 3 | 7 | 5 |  | 62 | 8 | 9 | 4 |  | 1 |  |  |  | 4 | 9 |  | 6 | 1 | 5 |  | 8 | 3 | 7 |  |  |
| 5 | 3 | 8 |  | 19 | 2 | 4 | 47 |  |  |  |  |  | 8 | 2 |  | 5 | 6 | 3 |  | 4 | 1 | 9 |  | 7 |
| 6 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 47 | 5 | 8 | 8 |  |  |  |  |  | 3 | 4 |  | 7 | 5 | 1 |  | 9 | 2 | 6 |  |  |
| 2 | 4 | 4 | 78 | 83 | 6 | 5 | 51 |  | 9 |  |  |  | 1 | 6 |  | 9 | 8 | 7 |  | 2 | 5 | 4 |  |  |

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

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

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

Stuck? Call 09012936263 to receive four clues for today's Samurai Sudoku. Calls cost $£ 1$ plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm)

## Solutions




## Solution to times2

 Jumbo 1674The winner is
David Whitehill of Hastings, E Sussex

Cell Blocks 5112


Suko 4131

| 8 | 4 | 2 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 7 | 1 | 6 |  |
|  | 120 | 6 | 6 |
| 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.
1. 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, returf, 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 leftwinger 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)

