

SCRABBLE™
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Double Word Score

Double Word Score

1st Letter Triple

PAR SCORE 150-160
 BEST SCORE 216

FOUR RACK TOTAL
 TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

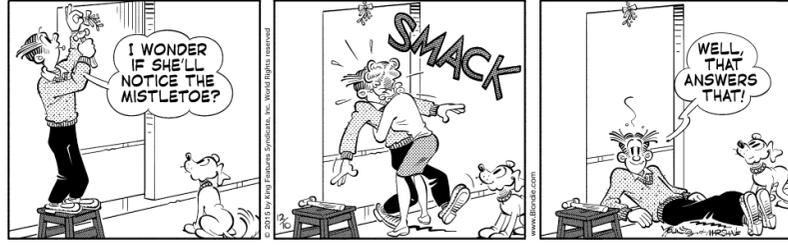
DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE™ Players Dictionary 5th Edition.

Answer below
 For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE™ Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com.

NON SEQUITUR by Wiley



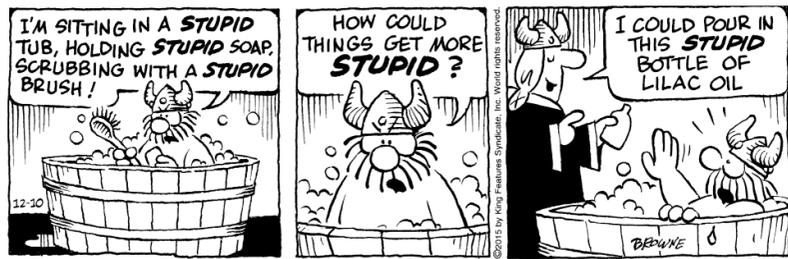
BLONDIE by Dean Young and John Marshall



HI & LOIS by Chance Browne



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE by Chris Browne



DENNIS THE MENACE by Hank Ketcham



THE FAMILY CIRCUS by Bill Keane



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BREDY

NARKD

GUNOLE

FOWULE

Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

When the couple from Sydney planted carrots in their garden, they GREW —

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: **SCULPTURE**

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CAMEO STRUM PULPIT SQUASH
 Answer: When the artist asked to make a stone likeness of her, she said — "SCULPT-SURE"

Info about blood thinners, colonoscopy

Dear Dr. Roach: I am currently taking 20 mg of Xarelto daily, and have a screening colonoscopy scheduled soon. The preparation instructions said not to stop taking blood thinners, but didn't specifically mention Xarelto. I contacted the office and spoke with a scheduler, who said those instructions applied to all blood thinners.

Previously, I was told that I would need to go off of blood thinners for five days prior to a colonoscopy. Since this was a contradiction to the instructions from the clinic, I have tried to reach out to other medical sources to see if I could get a consensus on what to do, but no one has responded to me yet.

There is a strong history of clotting problems in my family. Would you weigh in on this matter? The last time I had a screening colonoscopy was around 2005, and there weren't any issues. I realize

DR. KEITH ROACH TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

this is a scope and not surgery, but it has me concerned enough that I am considering putting this off until I can get a satisfactory response. — B.R.

Most screening colonoscopies now are done with patients still on their anticoagulants, although for patients on warfarin (Coumadin), it is preferred for levels to be on the low end of the therapeutic range. This is a standard recommendation by the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.

The situation would be different for a high-risk endoscopic procedure, such as removing a large polyp. I have had to deal with this situation many times in my practice, and most often, all anticoagulants are stopped then restart-

ed after the colonoscopy. There are some people who are at such high risk for clots that we use injection medications to prevent blood clots until the night before the procedure, but that is normally reserved for the highest risk of all. It's a judgment call as to whether to use the injection anticoagulants to prevent clots around the colonoscopy.

Dear Dr. Roach: Could you have a column about sexually active elderly women (80s), and also touch on the subject of orgasm headaches? I don't want to risk explaining something to my family, and I am embarrassed to mention it to my doctor. — Anon.

Headaches associated with orgasm are rare, but not as rare as you might think. They happen more often in men than in women, and can be associated with structural problems in the brain. Because of this

last point, every person with headache that occurs during sexual activity or orgasm should have an evaluation, such as a CT or MRI scan. So, you will need to overcome any embarrassment and see your doctor. It is not common, but people have had strokes associated with this type of headache.

If the evaluation shows no structural problems in the brain, there are effective treatments that can be taken before sexual activity to prevent a headache.

As far as other comments on sexual activity in the elderly, many healthy couples continue to be sexually active into their 80s and beyond. Risk of sexually transmitted infections is low, but not zero. I've discussed how many medical conditions affect sexual function in both men and women, and often the goal is to improve overall sexual health for the couple.

Bridge
 by Frank Stewart

Yes, we're open

When I watched today's deal in a penny game, Cy the Cynic was West. North-South got to four spades when North underbid (his three spades was invitational) and South overbid (he had no extra values).

Cy led the queen of hearts, and East took the ace and led a trump. South drew trumps and led a diamond. East won and returned a heart. South led another diamond, setting up two club discards. Making four.

DEBATE

Cy and East then engaged in a debate:

"Lead a club at the second trick, hoping I have the jack," the Cynic snapped. "We need a club trick before declarer uses the diamonds."

"You need to keep an open mind," East said.

"Some open minds should be closed for repairs," Cy retorted.

Who was right?

Really, nobody. As the cards lay, East could win out by leading a club at Trick Two, but if South had only two hearts, six minor-suit cards and the jack of clubs, a club shift would be disastrous. Sometimes no "correct" defense exists, only a winning defense.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ 9 5 ♥ A 9 8 3 2
 ♦ A K 2 ♣ K 10 2. Your partner

opens one diamond, you bid one heart and he rebids two diamonds. What do you say?

ANSWER: Six diamonds might be a fine contract if partner has exactly the right minimum hand. He might hold A 6 4, K 4, Q J 10 7 6 4, A 4. More likely, you should look for your best game, which might be 3NT. Bid three clubs. If partner bids 3NT, pass. If he does anything else, head for game or slam at diamonds.

South dealer
 Neither side vulnerable

NORTH
 ♠ J 8 7 3
 ♥ 7
 ♦ Q J 10 9
 ♣ A Q 7 5

WEST
 ♠ 6 4
 ♥ Q J 10 4
 ♦ 8 7 6 4
 ♣ J 9 8

EAST
 ♠ 9 5
 ♥ A 9 8 3 2
 ♦ A K 2
 ♣ K 10 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A K Q 10 2
 ♥ K 6 5
 ♦ 5 3
 ♣ 6 4 3

South 1♠ West Pass North 3♠ East Pass
 4♠ All Pass

Opening lead — ♥ Q

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The Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
- Please in Nuremberg
 - Units of loudness
 - Earmark
 - Specialized vocabulary
 - Take down a peg
 - OAS member
 - Exponent in base 10
 - One voted in
 - Clan's emblem
 - Opposite of 'neath
 - Ridge, TN
 - Simone or Foch
 - Egyptian symbols
 - Dutch flowers
 - Clumsy clodhopper
 - Baby's toy
 - Bear bedroom
 - Periodic payments
 - Existed
 - River frolickers
 - Ripped up
 - Pretentious add-ons
 - "The Screens" dramatist
 - Ring signal
 - Popeye's Olive
 - Dearie
 - Police blotter info
 - Canine restraints
 - Quotients of two integers
 - Resident's suffix
 - Abbey Theatre founder
 - Chosen ones

- Visit: ADailyCrossword.com 12/10
- 63 Sportscaster Berman
- 64 Cut dramatically
- 65 Curvy letters
- 66 movie?
- 67 Lutes' kin
- 68 Sharply
- 69 Ballpoint, e.g.
- 70 Numerical relationship
- 71 Celine of song
- 72 Raison d'
- 73 Russian refusal
- 74 Hide ___ hair
- 75 Kitchen implements
- 76 Envelope part
- 77 Chin whiskers
- 78 Sherlock's portrayal
- 79 Upper class
- 80 Threshold, in psychology
- 81 TV oldie, "Ramsey"
- 82 Stone and Stallone
- 83 Secure with cord
- 84 Weeders' implements
- 85 Noun-forming suffix
- 86 Concordes, e.g.
- 87 Slim swimmer
- 88 CAB successor
- 89 ACLU concerns

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

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

Scrabble Solution

PAR SCORE 150-160

TOTAL 216

RACK 4 = 65

RACK 3 = 14

RACK 2 = 59

RACK 1 = 78

GRAMS SOLUTION

BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker



SNUFFY SMITH by Fred Lasswell



Conceptis Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

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

Difficulty Level ★★★