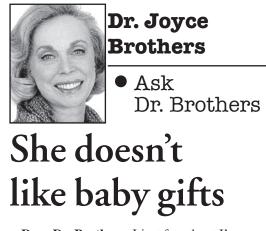


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Dear Dr. Brothers: I just found out I'm pregnant for the first time, and amidst all the excitement and joy, I've been struggling with how to deal with a conflict with my mother-in-law. She bought us a bunch of nice baby things that are not my style, nor things we need. We picked out other items that we really like and do need. Is it horrible to try to tell her we'd rather have something else, or don't like what she bought? – T.R.

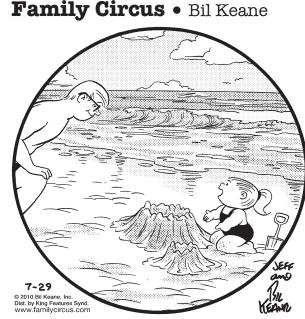
Dear T.R.: Dealing with the in-laws can get more complicated once kids enter the picture, especially if you don't have a close relationship with them. While you don't want to be rude, you have every right to enjoy your first pregnancy and baby to the fullest extent, including picking out the perfect crib or stroller. Every baby is special. That being said, you don't want to alienate your mother-in-law, or put your husband in an awkward situation by creating unnecessary conflict.

With some open and honest communication, you should be able to explain your position without hurting her feelings. You can explain that while you're thankful for her gifts, you already have the particular items picked out. Tell her how much you appreciate her excitement and enthusiasm, and offer to spend time shopping or preparing for the baby together. This way, you can include her in the excitement, and she can learn more about your style and vision, which will help not only for potential future pregnancies, but also for your baby's future. Being grateful but honest is ideal, and hopefully your mother-in-law will respect your approach.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I've been working for almost 10 years, and this year I started business school. I'm taking classes at night and working full time during the day, and it's really wearing. All my friends are out enjoying their free time, and I'm stuck at home studying. I started out in school so motivated, but I'm wondering if I made the right choice. Is there a way I can better balance my life so I don't get burned out? - L.H.

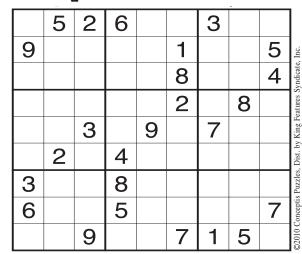
Dear L.H.: Going back to school as an adult can be a huge undertaking, and more challenging than going to school when you're younger. It is important to strike a balance between work and school, while leaving some time for yourself. A good start is to examine your expectations for the years that you will be working and going to school at the same time. You can make a log of the activities you'd normally be doing, and think about which activities are your top priorities and which you truly can neglect.

It's also important that you don't try to go it alone. Let the people you know and trust support you. Whether it's small favors or long-term commitments of help, you should learn to accept any help that's offered, and ask for any help you need. You can handle only so much, and your friends and family will understand that. Remember to reward those who help you out, and do something meaningful to thank them when you've finished your degree. It's great you were motivated to pursue this goal, and you can remember the things



"I made Prince Charming's castle and his garage.

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★ 🖈 🖈

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to the last

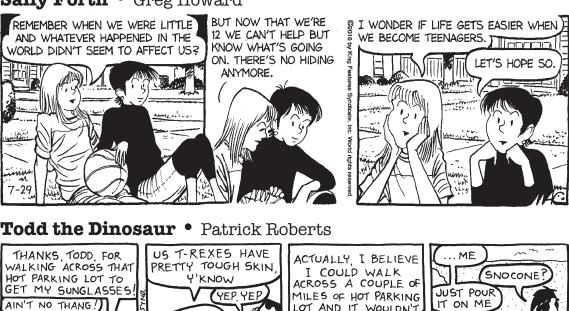
1 2 9 3 7 4 5 8 6 4 5 6 8 1 2 7 9 3 3 7 8 9 5 6 7 4 2 1 6 9 3 5 8 8 6 3 7 4 5 1 2 9 5 9 1 2 3 8 4 6 7 9 1 4 5 8 7 6 3 2 2 3 5 6 9 1 8 7 4 6 8 7 4 2 3 9 1 5

Cryptoquip

Sudoku puzzle is at right.

YOBZZCY XCLZ' KBOD NM B TONEL-ABCQDL FCQO BEL ADQ BEYDZKNQZ: "FNOLCONYXZ K A D M N Q D T D B Q Z . " BEL Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF À PERSON FINDS IT DELIGHTFUL TO GET KNOCKED TO THE GROUND, COULD YOU SAY HE'S TACKLED PINK?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals F



O

Щ



BEACH

PARKING



draw on those when the going gets tough.

(c) 2010 by King Features Syndicate AC

5

8

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

20

22

26

33

34

35

36

Bridge • Steve Becker South dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH ♠ K J 10 9 8 5 2 ♥ 7 5 4

LET'S HOPE SO

SNOCONE

.. ME

LOT AND IT WOULDN'

AFFECT.

A

♦ K 6 WEST EAST ♥K.J.3 ♥ 10.9 ♦ A 9 7 5 4 2 ♦ Q J 10 8 3 ♣K 762 ♣Q9853 SOUTH ♠ A Q 7 6 3
♥ A Q 8 6 2 The bidding: West ♣AJ 10 North East 1 🛧 Pass 4 🕈 Pass Opening lead - queen of diamonds.

A Sure Thing Before proceeding with the play, declarer should first identify all of his assets. The trouble is that some assets are not as easy to spot as oth-

Consider this deal where it seems that making 29 six spades depends strictly on the outcome of the 30 heart finesse. If East has the king, you make six; if West has it, you go down one. But closer study reveals that the contract is ice-cold regardless of 31 who has the king of hearts! All you have to do to assure the slam is to play the hand correctly. 32

Ruff the opening diamond lead, cross to dummy with a trump, ruff another diamond, return to dummy with a trump and lead the four of clubs. If East follows low, play the ten from your hand. The effect of this play is that you lose a club trick you didn't have to lose, but this has a very attractive redeeming feature: You are now sure to make the slam no matter how the opposing cards are distributed.

Whatever West returns after he wins the club, you're home. If he leads a heart into your A-Q, you win and dispose of dummy's third heart on the club ace; if he returns a club into your A-J, you discard two hearts from dummy; and if he leads a diamond instead, you discard a heart from dummy as you ruff in your hand and dispose of another heart from dummy on the ace of clubs.

If East plays the king or queen on the club lead from dummy, the outcome is exactly the same. You win with the ace and return the jack of clubs. If West covers the jack, you ruff in dummy and later discard a heart on the ten; if West does not cover the jack, you discard a heart from dummy and subsequently discard another heart on the ten. Either way, you're sure of 12 tricks.

(c)2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

that drove you to apply for business school and **Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

CROSS Detail, for short	37 Armoire contents, maybe2 Flower3 Eastern potentate	23 Collection of dia- monds?
Chest	40 Tom's 4 Become	24 Type-
protector?	pal rough	face
Surface	41 Gorge 5 Pop	25 Old
gunk	45 Give off 6 One of	Norse
Crooner	47 Sch. org. the	work
Perry	49 Midmonth Gersh-	26 Reply to
Swiss	day wins	"Shall
canton	50 Protract- 7 Abomi-	we?"
Water-	ed nable	27 Reed
gate	51 Feedbag Snow-	instru-
evidence	tidbit man's	ment
One side	52 Grazing cousin	28 Emollient
of the	areas 8 Kind of	32 Big
Urals	53 Palm wool	win in
Tatter	starch 9 Vatican	Vegas
Formerly,	54 Dead VIP	33 Ponder-
formerly	heat 10 High	ously
Aromatic	55 Harvard periods	35 USMC
resins	rival 11 Encoun-	rank
Nourish	tered	36 Forensic
Wealthy	DOWN 19 That girl	ID
enough	1 Con 21 Work	38 Expendi-
Also-ran	game unit	ture
Journal	Solution times 25 mins	39 Angry
Head	Solution time: 25 mins.	42 Concept
move-	COBSOT SHOELOCHS	43 Conan of
ment		NPR
Black, in	HOLEINTHEWALL	44 Being, to
verse	OWLQUESTLEA BUDSEDGY	Brutus
Stick		45 Golfer
out	BREDNEXT	Ernie
Applause	U R N S L U R P D A Y	46 Kiwi's
As well	G O T A H O L E I N O N E R A D I A L B E N T S	extinct
Faux —		cousin
Greek	NTHDNA	48 Mai —
triangle	Yesterday's answer 7-29	(cocktail)

