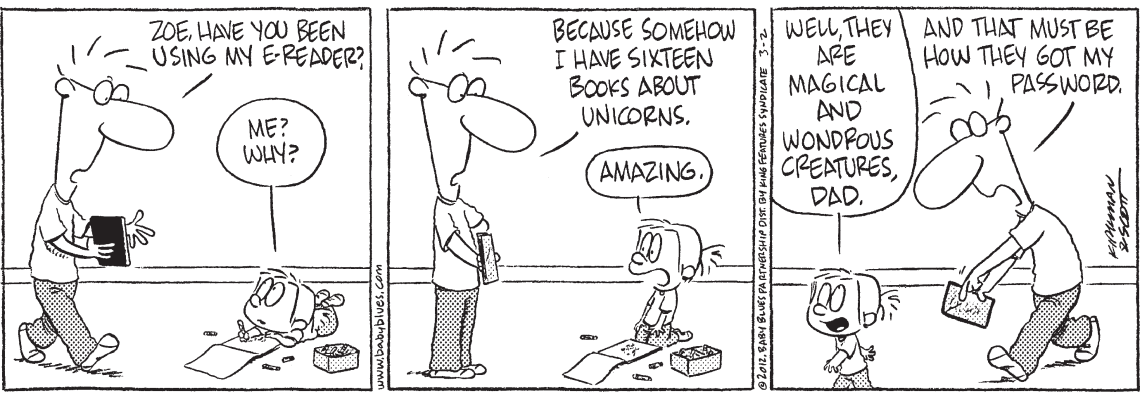


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise
• Hints from Heloise

Teen boy given advice collection

Dear Heloise: My single-mom daughter recently put together a wonderful gift for her 13-year-old son. She asked all the men in his life to provide WORDS OF ADVICE for a young man entering his teen years. The list included his grandpa, uncle, cousins, Sunday-school teachers and friends. Each one had a different perspective. The response was amazing and heartwarming. The replies were put in a notebook titled "Words of Wisdom."

This hint is one many single moms might appreciate. Our grandson appreciated the advice and will cherish the book forever. - Jan in Arizona

Jan, this is a wonderful heart hint! It's especially meaningful for any child being raised by a single parent. Thanks for writing, and give that boy a hug from me! - Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:
Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 1-210-HELOISE
Email: Heloise@Heloise.com

TRAVEL HINT
Dear Heloise: More hotels are offering amenities, like a coffee maker in the room. I take my own tea bags and hot-chocolate mixes with me from home. I am not a big coffee drinker, but I can use the coffee maker for my other favorite hot beverages. Whether in the room or made to take with me on a sightseeing adventure, this is cheaper than stopping at a shop or cafe. - Rebecca S., via email

Rebecca, my coffee travel hint is to bring home that new flavor of coffee and add it to your blend for a new and different taste, plus you'll save some money, too! - Heloise

LAUNDRY LIST
Hello, Heloise and staff: I was one of your mom's first and biggest fans! I've just finished sorting laundry and thought of a few hints that I don't recall seeing in your columns:

1. Always wash your hands well after sorting laundry and after adding each load to the washer. We wouldn't think of not washing after handling other soiled items. This is especially true when handling clothing from children and the elderly.
2. When I get to the last load in a bottle of liquid detergent, I usually can get enough for a small load by rinsing the bottle a couple of times.
3. When I have two small loads of similar weight and color (e.g., pastels and whites), but don't want to wash them together, I hold the first load in the dryer without turning it on until the second load is washed. Then I place the second load with the first load and dry them together. Saves time and electricity. - Mary in Omaha

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, and the bidding has gone:
West North East South
1 ♠ Dble Pass ?

What would you bid with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠ 96 ♥ 732 ♦ Q543 ♣ Q543
2. ♠ 72 ♥ K85 ♦ K96 ♣ KJ982
3. ♠ 84 ♥ Q763 ♦ KQJ3 ♣ 954
4. ♠ 10 ♥ Q874 ♦ KJ95 ♣ AJ86

Bidding Quiz

1. Two clubs. Partner's takeout double guarantees the values for an opening bid. He might have anywhere from 13 to more than 20 points; you can't tell at this stage how many he has. Ordinarily, he will have support for all of the unbid suits, but he could have a powerhouse, or possibly five diamonds and four hearts and be planning to correct a two-club response by you to two diamonds. All that matters at this point is that he is asking you to bid, and you are obliged to do so regardless of the strength of your hand. The only question is whether you should bid two clubs or two diamonds.

From the standpoint of economy, it is better to bid two clubs. This leaves partner room to bid diamonds at the two-level if he lacks club support. But if you respond two diamonds, there will be no corresponding chance to locate a club fit without going into the three-level.

2. Three clubs. You can't bid two clubs with this hand and also the preceding one and expect partner to know that this time there is a reasonable chance for game. The usual way of showing strength in response to a double is by making a jump-response in your longest suit. The single-jump response normally indicates nine to 11 high-card points, but you don't need quite that many if your hand is distributionally very promising.

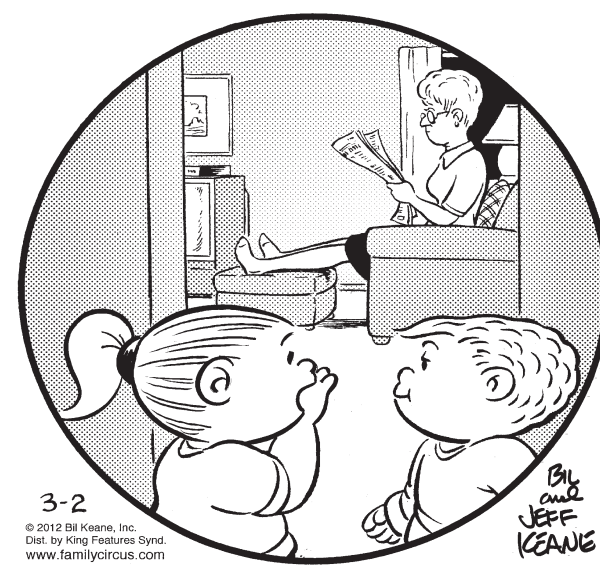
3. Two hearts. Here you're just a bit short of the values for a jump-response, but there is still a realistic possibility of game. It is therefore better to respond in hearts than diamonds, because partner is more likely to bid again over a major-suit response. If partner raises two hearts to three hearts, you should happily bid four.

4. Two spades. Game is extremely likely in one of your three suits -- you have 11 high-card points plus a singleton in the opponent's suit -- but you don't know which of your suits should be trump. So, instead of guessing which suit to jump-respond in, you force partner to choose the trumps by cuebidding West's suit.

Partner can't misconstrue the meaning of your bid, since you would have passed one spade doubled if you had length and strength in spades. The cuebid indicates a game-going hand that contains two or three potential trump suits. You plan to raise partner to game in whatever suit he names in response to your cuebid.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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 Sudoku puzzle is at right.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

AFGR YU DMZSGDUQS RGQUU
GDZG OHYYJMH HYAMHGZ
RVHFJNSMR YJ GYV YU ZSS
DMH RZSZCR: USZON'R RMMC.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MOST ANIMAL DOCTORS ARE QUITE COURTEOUS TO CLIENTS. INDEED, THEY HAVE VERY PROPER VET-IQUETTE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Matter-horn, for one
 - 4 Sull sound of impact
 - 8 Equipment
 - 12 Debtor's letters
 - 13 Leak out slowly
 - 14 Advantage
 - 15 Not imported
 - 17 Crucifix
 - 18 Meager
 - 19 Resistance measure
 - 21 Solidify
 - 22 Countrified
 - 26 Deluge
 - 29 Oktoberfest vessel
 - 30 Eventual aves
 - 31 Carry on
 - 32 Predicament
 - 33 Get ready quickly?
- DOWN**
- 1 Lends a hand
 - 2 Aerobatic maneuver
 - 3 Wild cat
 - 4 Threw
 - 5 "Monopoly"
 - 6 9mm sub-machine gun
 - 7 Propriety
 - 8 Bacteria
 - 9 Maestro de Waart
 - 10 Past
 - 11 Roulette bet
 - 16 Cereal disease
 - 20 Embrace
 - 23 Actress Spelling
 - 24 Currier's partner
 - 25 Superhero costume feature
 - 26 Gift-tag word
 - 27 "— and the Tramp"
 - 28 Individuals
 - 29 Has potential
 - 32 Fool
 - 33 Fourth estate
 - 35 Grissom of "CSI"
 - 36 Colored part of the iris
 - 38 Make fun of
 - 39 Prenatal exam, for short
 - 42 Remain
 - 43 Take the bus
 - 44 Garbage barge
 - 45 Third degree?
 - 46 Meadow
 - 47 Blunder
 - 49 "— milk?"

Yesterday's answer 3-2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
18							19	20		
		21					22		23	24
26	27	28				29			30	
31				32				33		
34				35				36		
37			38				39			
			40				41		42	43
45	46	47				48	49			
50						51			52	
53						54				55