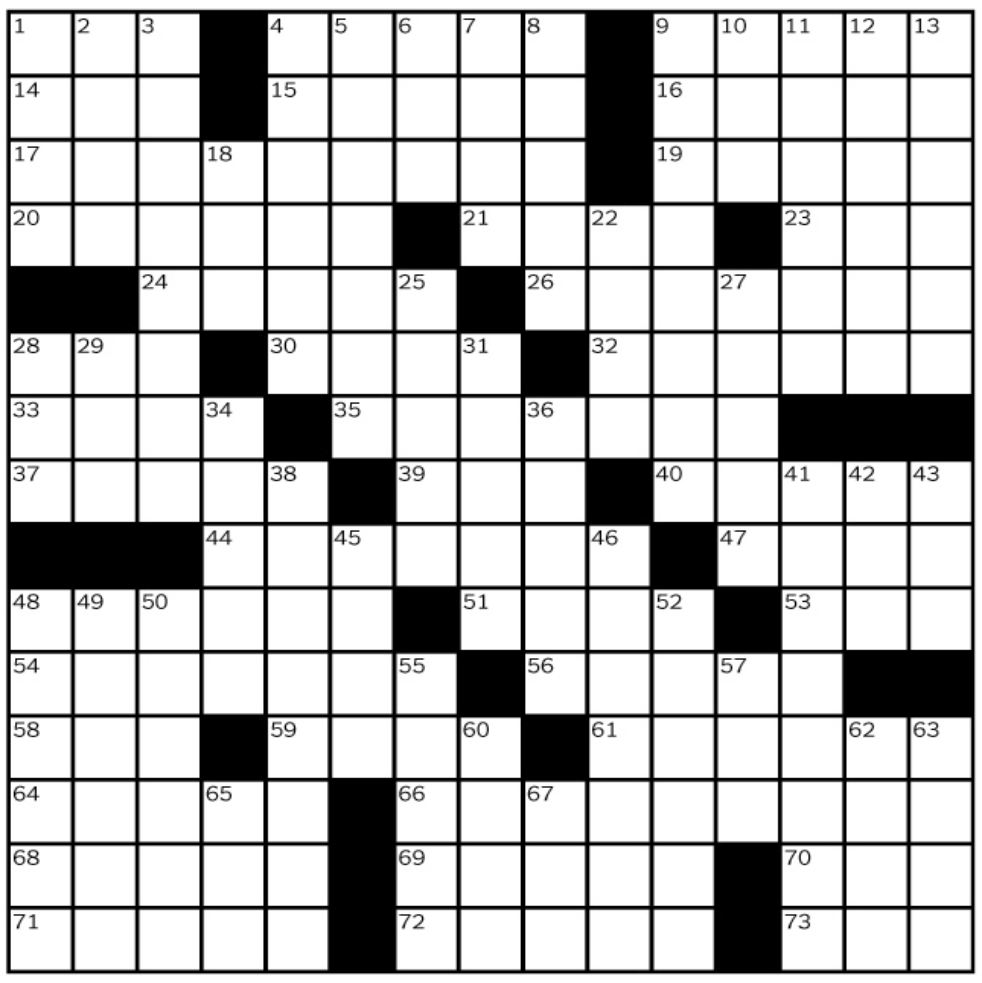
The New York Times

crossword



Across

1 Blue
4 "M*A*S*H" extra
9 Controls
14 San Francisco's ___ Valley
15 Kind of skeleton
16 Cravat alternative
17 Bergman's 1956 Oscar-winning role
19 Siberian native
20 —
21 Boglike
23 Had something
24 Twists
26 —
28 ___ Schwarz
30 H. G. Wells race
32 Humans and ostriches
33 "___ you something"
35 Supreme Court groupings
37 —
39 EarthLink, e.g., for short
40 Calligraphy detail
44 Airway
47 Dam's companion
48 "Camptown Races" composer
51 —
53 "Yikes!"
54 Incorrect reasoning
56 "Thus ___ the Lord"
58 Ring of plumerias
59 Casual denials
61 Hydrogen has one
64 Yemeni port
66 Umber or ocher
68 Drug-free
69 1980 Tony Award-winning musical
70 A.T.M. manufacturer
71 —
72 —
73 —

Down

1 Percussion in a marching band
2 Bang-up
3 Nonessentials
4 Ripen
5 Aid for clarity
6 Slam
7 "___ to please"
8 Co-star of Showtime's "Homeland"
9 Cricket relatives
10 Code-cracking org.
11 89 or 91, maybe
12 Went by sound, perhaps
13 Italicize, e.g.
18 Madrid Mrs.
22 Former sitcom featuring a #1 singer
25 Kind of wave
27 Some places to pray
28 Gung-ho
29 Cause of some wrinkles
31 Tattered
34 All, in music
36 Pentathlon equipment
38 Full of life?
41 Legal maneuver ... with a hint to answering seven clues in this puzzle
42 Roth ___
43 Agent of Uncle Sam
45 What the fat lady sings?
46 Learn to live with
48 Actor's screen recognition
49 Corrida chant
50 Sectioned
52 When repeated, 1968 name in the news
55 Rooted for
57 "Sesame Street" watcher
60 Goalkeeper's glory
62 Erstwhile
63 Dweeb
65 Japanese "yes"
67 Purge

Yesterday's solution

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

horoscope

Capricorn (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)
Disagreements with family need to be kept private. Instead of acquiring support, airing your disputes in public merely makes everyone look bad in the eyes of others.

Aquarius (JAN. 20-FEB. 19)
You should strive to be supportive of associates who express their ideas and/or plans. If you feel compelled to comment, make sure that what you say is constructive, not critical.

Pisces (FEB. 20-MARCH 20)
Before taking on any long-term obligation at this point in time, review the possibilities from all angles. If you are impulsive about it, you could create difficulties that would last a long while.

Aries (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)
If you find yourself stymied by a lack of support, be both patient and persevering. There isn't anyone who can't be won over.

Taurus (APRIL 20-MAY 20)
Don't expect your colleagues to do things for you that you could easily do for yourself. Whether they're friends or co-workers, others will resent being manipulated.

Gemini (MAY 21-JUNE 20)
It might provide you with temporary pleasure to put frivolous interests ahead of duties, but it won't equal the guilt you'll feel and/or blame you'll collect on account of not doing your job.

Cancer (JUNE 21-JULY 22)
There won't be any free rides currently. Only hard work and persistence will help you achieve goals worthy of the effort. You'll need to roll up your sleeves and get to work.

Leo (JULY 23-AUG. 22)
If you have to contend with an individual who is unyielding and stubborn, attempting to convert him or her to your way of doing things could turn out to be an exercise in futility. Let it go.

Virgo (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)
Don't assume any new financial obligations, especially if you are already straining to take care of some old debts. One more straw could break the camel's back.

Libra (SEPT. 23-OCT. 23)
Before accusing your mate or anyone else of dragging his or her feet, make sure you're doing everything that is required of you. There's a chance that you've dropped the ball.

Scorpio (OCT. 24-NOV. 22)
Should you find yourself being asked to perform a task or assignment that you find distasteful, rather than make a fuss over it, do what is requested with a smile.

Sagittarius (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)
Do what you can to steer clear of a controversial situation that involves two of your friends. Your well-meaning input could complicate matters rather than help resolve them.

bridge

Oscar Robertson, who has more triple-doubles than anyone in National Basketball Association history, said: "Who do I think was the greatest? This might shock you: Elgin Baylor. He did so many great things. Nobody could guard him, playing in the forward spot." (A triple-double occurs when a player accumulates a double-digit total in three of five categories: points, rebounds, assists, steals and blocked shots.)

In bridge, nobody can make a defeatable contract against opponents who know how to signal with their spot cards and are spotting the signals their partners are sending.

In this deal, how should the defenders use some of their spot cards to help defeat four hearts after West leads the club ace?

From the dummy, it should be apparent to West that his side needs to take two diamond and two club tricks. There are two ways to do that. First, find East with the diamond king; that is the easy route. Or second, get into the East hand for an effective diamond shift.

How can West get into the East hand?

Only with the club queen. But how will West know if East has that card?

By looking at East's trick-one signal. Here, East should drop his 10-spot to show the queen. (Without the queen, he would play his lowest club. Then West would cash the diamond ace, hoping East would signal with a high spot to announce the king.)

Now West should continue with a low club spot at trick two. Then East can win the trick and shift to the diamond queen, giving the defense the first four tricks.

North
♠ A K Q 10 9
♥ Q J 7 4
♦ 10 8
♣ 6 5

West
♠ 8 5 3 2
♥ 6 3
♦ A 9 6
♣ A K 9 4

East
♠ 7 6 4
♥ --
♦ Q J 7 5 3 2
♣ Q 10 3 2

South
♠ J
♥ A K 10 9 8 5 2
♦ K 4
♣ J 8 7

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
		1 ♠	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ A

language tips

BETTER CHINESE

1.炎帝
(yán dì)
Emperor Yan

炎帝是中华民族的始祖之一。现在说中国人是"炎黄子孙"。"炎"就是炎帝。"黄"就是黄帝。

(yán dì shì zhōng huá mín zú de shǐ zǔ zhī yī 。xiàn zài shuō zhōng guó rén shì "yán huáng zǐ sūn "。"yán "jiù shì yán dì 。"huáng "jiù shì huáng dì 。)

Emperor Yan is usually referred to as the ancestor of the Chinese nation. Chinese people today call themselves the offspring of Yan and Huang. "Yan" refers to emperor Yan. "Huang" refers to emperor Huang.

2.王母娘娘
(wáng mǔ niáng niáng)
Queen Mother of the Western Heavens

王母娘娘也叫"西王母"，传说她是昆仑山的山神，长者人头豹身，由两只青鸟陪伴侍奉。

(wáng mǔ niáng niáng yě jiào "xī wáng mǔ ", chuán shuō tā shì kūn lún shān de shān shén , zhǎng zhě rén tóu bào shēn , yóu liǎng zhī qīng niǎo péi bàn shì fèng 。)

According to legends, Queen Mother of the Western Heavens, also called Queen Mother of the West, was the godness of the Kunlun Mountains. She had the head of a human and body of a leopard. Two blue bird messengers accompanied her.

— From *Read stories and learn Chinese*, by Li Jin and Tian Zhihua. Beijing Language and Culture University Press.

BETTER ENGLISH

One throat to choke

Dell acquires Quest, offers VDI shops 'one throat to choke'
http://translate.chinadaily.com.cn/?mod=question&action=viewthread&qid=59322

My comments:

Now that Dell has acquired Quest, it now has everything a VDI (virtual desktop infrastructure) shop wants. That means VDI shops can come to Dell and get everything instead of having to go to many different vendors to buy different components.

Hence, Dell's customers can look at the computer giant as the "one throat to choke". In other words, if any customer is unhappy, they will have a single target to take out their anger on, and that one vendor is Dell.

"One throat to choke" is a business term, which understandably may have derived from the fact that when a buyer is very angry at a vendor, they often say: "I want to choke his throat!"

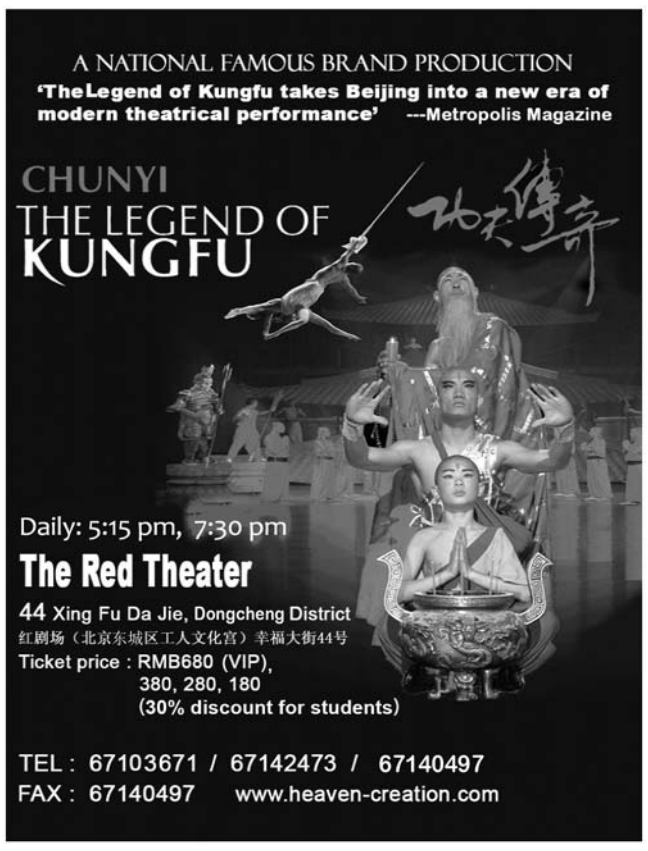
Or something like that.

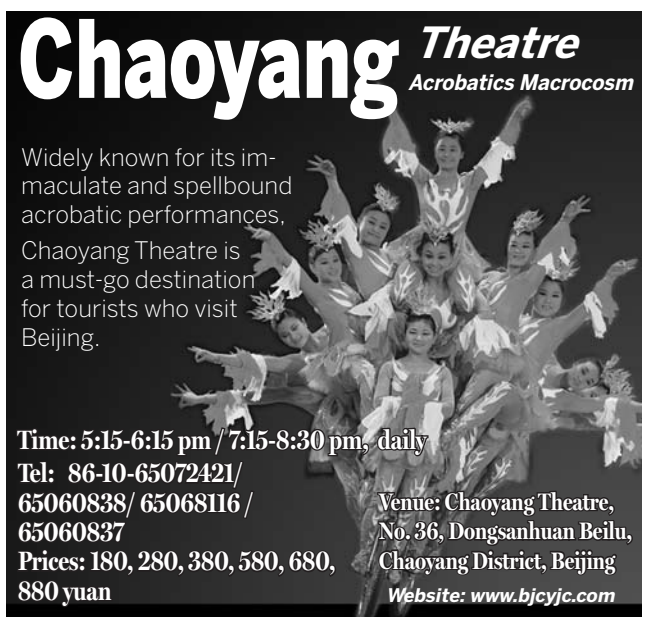
With Dell, the good thing for the customer is that they now know who that one throat to choke. Previously, when they have to buy components from many different vendors and when something goes wrong, they wouldn't even know whom to be angry at.

That must be a relief, I guess, of sorts.

Zhang Xin, who writes a column for Language Tips, has been with China Daily since 1988.

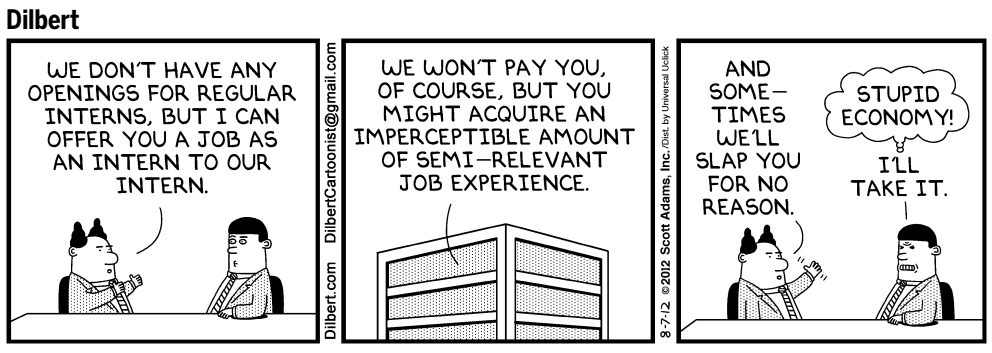
— To ask a question about learning English, please go to http://translate.chinadaily.com.cn.



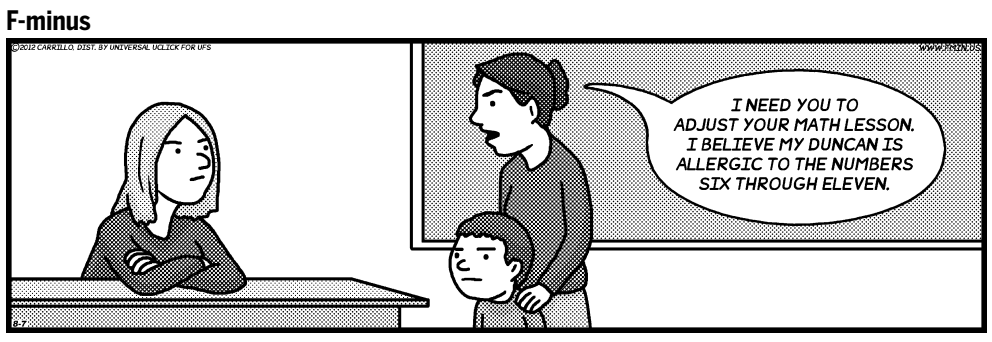


comics

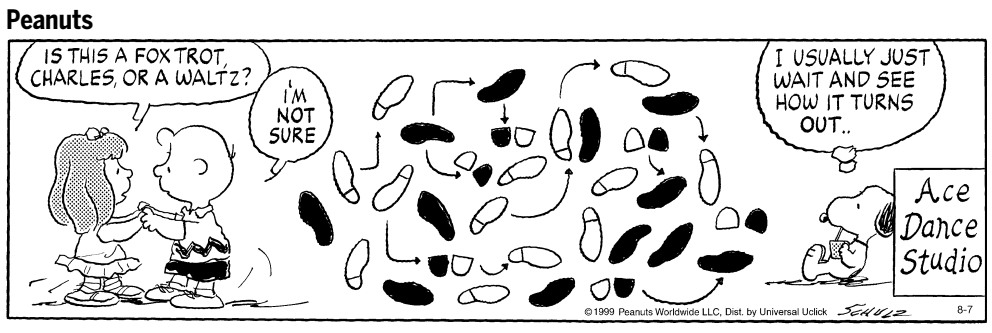
Dilbert



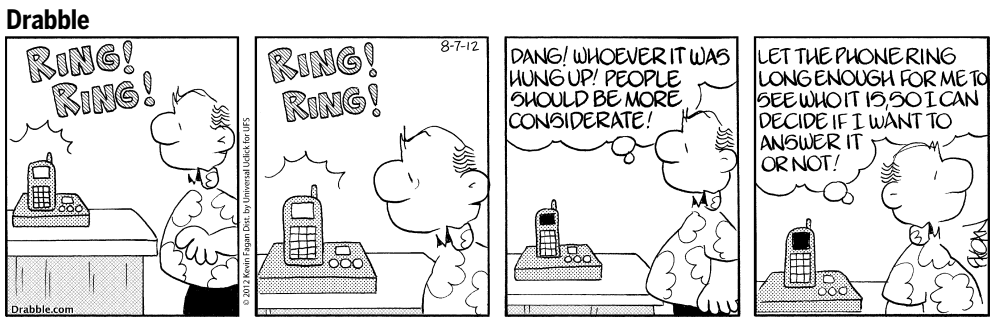
F-minus



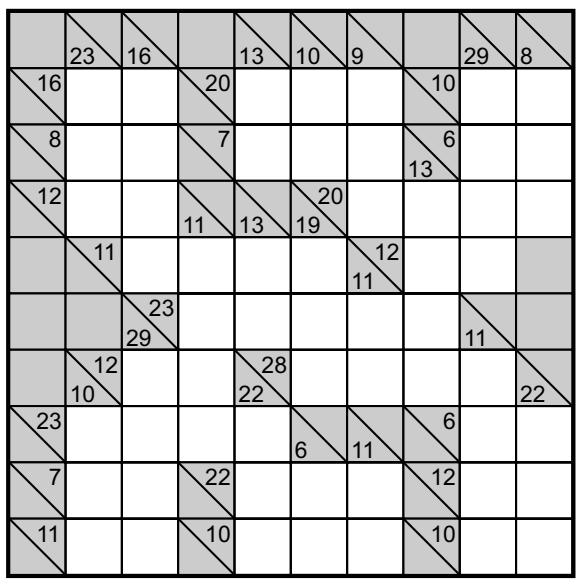
Peanuts



Drabble



kakuro



A Kakuro consists of a playing area of filled and empty cells similar to a crossword puzzle. Some black cells contain a diagonal slash from top left to bottom right with numbers in them, called "the clues". A number in the top right corner relates to an "across" clue and one in the bottom left a "down" clue. The object of a Kakuro is to insert digits from one to nine into the white cells to total the clue associated with it. However no digit can be duplicated in an entry.

Yesterday's solution

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