

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row,

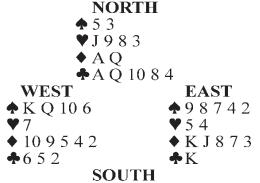
column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to today's Sudoku puzzle is right.

5	I	/	O	3	O		O	4
2	8	5	9	4	6	1	7	3
6	3	4	7	1	2	5	8	9
7	5	1	2	8	3	9	4	6
3	4	9	6	5	7	8	2	1
8	2	6	4	9	1	7	3	5
1	9	2	8	6	4	3	5	7
4	7	3	1	2	5	6	9	8
5	6	8	3	7	9	4	1	2
Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/21								

0 1 7 5 2 9 9

Bridge

North dealer. North-South vulnerable.



🕈 A J ♥AKQ1062 **♦** 6 **♣**J973 The bidding: North South East

West Pass Pass **Pass** 4 NT Pass **Pass 6** ♥ Opening lead — king of spades.

Spectacular but Reasonable

Declarer is not expected to play every hand as though all 52 cards are exposed, but, despite this, he should only rarely fail to get the most out of a hand.

The nature of the game is such that sound reasoning is usually well-rewarded.

If declarer realizes after a hand is over that he went down in a contract he could have made, he should review his plays objectively to see whether he could reasonably have found the winning line of play.

Take this case where South failed in a slam after winning the spade lead with the ace, drawing trumps and finessing the jack of clubs. East took the king and returned a spade to put a quick end to the proceedings.

It might seem unfair to condemn declarer for having lost a trick to East's singleton king, but, just the same, South should have made all the

As soon as dummy comes down, declarer can see that a successful finesse in either diamonds or clubs would permit him to discard his spade loser and make the slam.

Choosing one finesse over the other is not just a matter of luck, even though theoretically West has a 50-50 chance of having either king. The deciding factor is that opting for the dia-

mond finesse is better because it can be preceded by the play of the ace of clubs, which has a chance of catching the singleton king in either opponent's hand.

This possibility should not be ignored because, mathematically, when four to the king of a suit are missing, the king will be singleton one time out of eight.

Of course, if the king does not fall on the ace, declarer has the diamond finesse in reserve, and in that way he gets two chances to make the slam instead of just one.

Tomorrow: Test your play. (c)2006 King Features Syndicate

Family Circus • Bil Keane

"Bells on bobtails ring, Making spareribs bright..."

54 Despon-

dent

DOWN

2 On

3 Beside

(Pref.)

4 Cravings

5 "Another

mediate

year

6 Teeny

stop

at an

8 Man of

9 Better

airport

morals?

55 Entrance

1 Trenches

19 Bashful

21 Society

24 Anger

newbie 23 Poet's

inspirer

25 Reveille's

26 Weakling

27 Vicinity 28 Slow

slangily

steady

boarder's

protective

antelope

of your

decision

life?

38 Made a

39 Overturn

mark

symbol

squares

42 Trade-

32 Football

33 Skate-

item

35 African

36 Time

opposite

Crossword

ROSS	35	Under-
En-		stand
grossed	36	Llamas'
Pussy-		territory
cat's	37	Louisiana
partner		city
Staffer	40	Comic-
Orem's		strip
state		penguin
Meadow	41	Kitchen
Send out		gadget
Ms.	45	Wield a
Spelling		blue
Susan of		pencil
"L.A.	47	Storm
Law"		center
Detail,	49	Little
for		(Sp.)
	En- grossed Pussy- cat's partner Staffer Orem's state Meadow Send out Ms. Spelling Susan of "L.A. Law" Detail,	Engrossed 36 Pussycat's 37 partner Staffer 40 Orem's state Meadow 41 Send out Ms. 45 Spelling Susan of "L.A. 47 Law" Detail, 49

50 23-

Down

is one

title

garden

18 Few and far between 51 Longing 20 Smell 22 Louisiana 53 Start a citv

short

26 Adipose **29** CSA soldier **30** By way of

31 Cupid's alias **32** It'll hold the mayo

33 Iodine source 34 Always, in verse 52 Mideast 10 Gaming cube 11 List-ending abbr. Solution time: 25 mins.

43 Reverber 44 Bellow 45 Type 46 Payable 48 Verily







Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott









Blondie • Chic Young







Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne









Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott







THANK YOU FOR



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Cryptoquip

DKUUK KZ G ZGUEXH VEK

CXJRCXC UK EKDX-PJEKKF

GFF ERP JERFCHXW:

" U K UXGJE ERP KVW." Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE GRATING A CERTAIN KIND ÓF CHEÉSE, THAT MIGHT MAKE YOU A CHEDDAR SHREDDER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals W