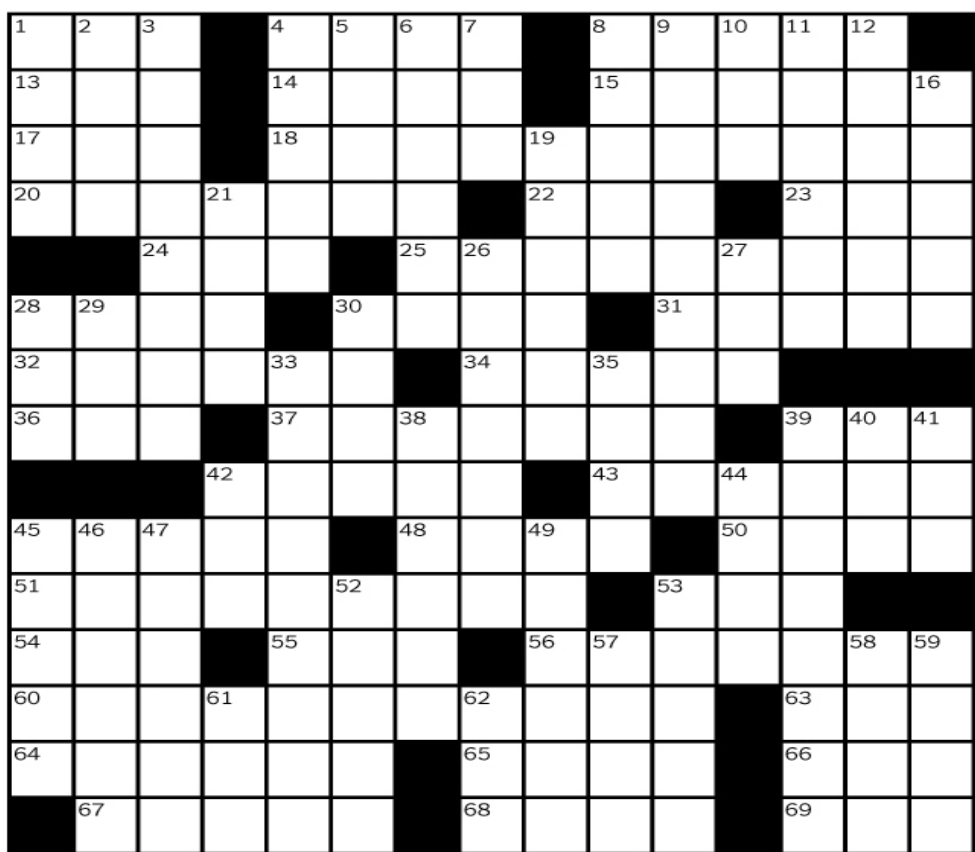


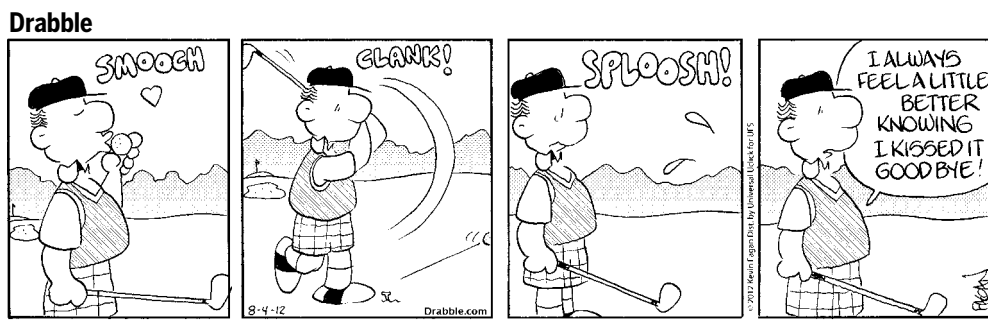
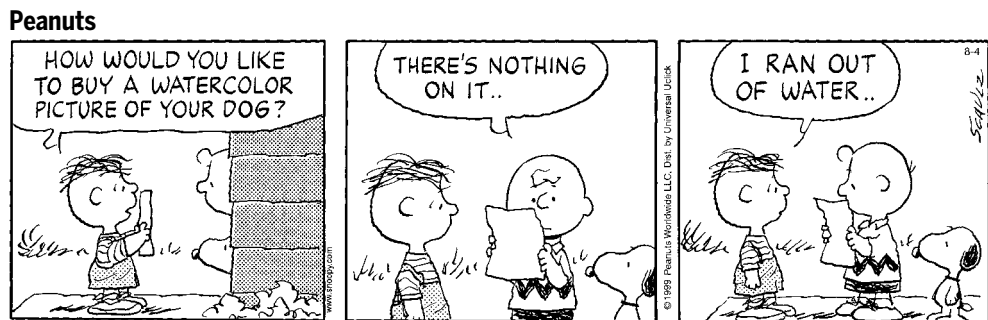
The New York Times crossword



- Across
1 "Th-that's cold!"
4 Humorist Barry
8 Exclaim using four-letter words
13 Richard (anonymous name in court cases)
14 Outfielder Tommie of the Miracle Mets
15 Batter
17 "Et" translated
18 Ruthless figure in "The Godfather"
20 Time of little advancement
22 Rain-soaked dirt
23 East Coast state: Abbr.
24 Drop-
25 First part of a 1952 best seller's title,
21 Wood knot
26 Designer Carolina
27 Suffix with Benedict
28 Inc., overseas
29 "I got it!"
30 Porto- (capital of Benin)
33 It's "wider than a mile," in an old song
35 Queequeg's captain
38 Tom Clancy's (2008 video game)
39 1959 John Wayne western
40 Frequently debunked ability
41 Sault, Marie
42 Born, in France
44 Moderate pace
45 Ice cream or candy
46 Champion
47 "Still ..."
49 Shooting star?
52 Miniskirts reveal them
53 Songwriter Jule
57 Schoenberg's "Moses und ..."
58 Author Paton
59 See 1-Down
61 "Ain't shame?!"
62 Many a recipient of hand-me-downs, informally

Yesterday's solution
G A B S O G R E S S F A D
R E A M A P A C H E I R E
U R G E F A L L E N I D O L
F I E L D P A R M G M T
F E L L O W S H I P P E A S
Y E O W R A B A T
A D O R A W E L I S E
F I L L I N T H E B L A N K S
L E D I N O V O G A P
Y O K E D I N E Z
A M E N F O L L O W S U I T
B A L E F L A E A T M E
F U L L N E L S O N Z A H N
A R E O C A S E Y S H O D
B A R S T R O D E A N T S

comics



horoscope

- Capricorn (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)
Aquarius (JAN. 20-FEB. 19)
Pisces (FEB. 20-MARCH 20)
Aries (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)
Taurus (APRIL 20-MAY 20)
Gemini (MAY 21-JUNE 20)
Cancer (JUNE 21-JULY 22)
Leo (JULY 23-AUG. 22)
Virgo (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)
Libra (SEPT. 23-OCT. 23)
Scorpio (OCT. 24-NOV. 22)
Sagittarius (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)

language tips

BETTER CHINESE

1. 花木兰 (hu mù lán)
Hua Mulan
花木兰替父从军这一故事来自于中国北朝民歌《木兰辞》。《木兰辞》是中国古代民间文学中一首优秀叙事诗，写的是女英雄替父从军，最后光荣还乡的故事。
2. 织布与绣花 (zhù bù yǔ xiù huā)
Weaving and embroidery
织布与绣花是中国古代女孩子从小就必须要学习和掌握的技艺，也是女孩子心灵手巧的重要标志。

-From Read Stories and Learn Chinese, by Li Jin and Tian Zhihua. Beijing Language and Culture University Press.

BETTER ENGLISH

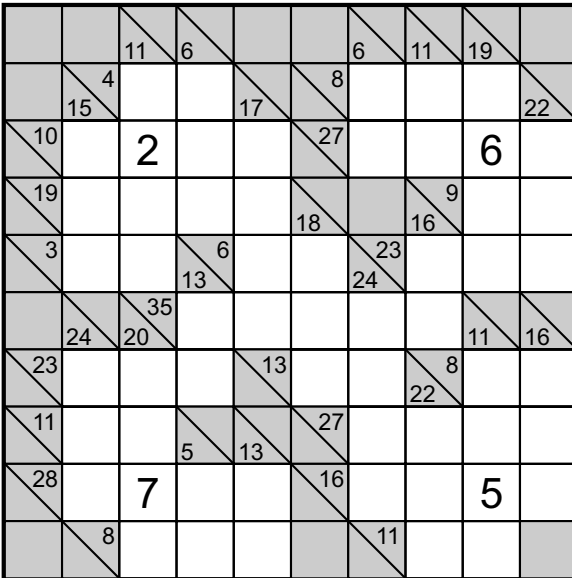
Miss the boat
About nine months ago, I acquired a 13-inch MacBook Air. At that point, the first Ultrabooks had been announced but were not yet shipping. Even so, I might have waited, except that the Ultrabooks I'd previewed to that point seemed uninspired, with clunkier hardware than the Air offered and various odd compromises.
My comments:
Good question. A question with context is always a good way to learn.

bridge

Aristotle said: "In making a speech, one must study three points: first, the means of producing persuasion; second, the language; third, the proper arrangement of the various parts of the speech."
In bridge there are three parts: first, the bidding; second, counting winners and losers; third, the proper arrangement of the tricks to make the contract.
In this deal, how should South plan the play in four hearts after the defenders begin with three rounds of spades?
In the auction, North's rebid was a double negative, showing a very bad hand, zero to 3 points. (Two no-trump is the traditional choice, three clubs the modern one.) On the third round, North had little else he could do other than support hearts.
Under West's spade-king lead, East signals encouragement with his seven. West continues with the spade five, his original fourth-highest. Then East finds the best defense of a third spade. South needs to take five hearts, three diamonds and two clubs.
After ruffing the third spade, if declarer draws trumps, he is safe against a 3-3 break, but not when they are 4-2, which is more likely. South needs three diamond tricks, and it is a reliable rule to establish declarer's side suit first. So South should play a trump to the dummy, then run the diamond jack.
After West wins, if he plays a fourth spade, declarer ruffs on the board, leads a club to his hand, draws trumps and claims. If West leads something else, South wins, draws trumps and claims.

Bridge hand diagram showing North, South, West, East cards and dealer information.

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.

Hence, you see, missing the boat was a big deal.
By extension, missing the boat also means, figuratively speaking, missing an opportunity.
In the top example, the speaker explained why, due to timing, he/she bought a MacBook Air instead of an Ultrabook. At that time, the Ultrabook wasn't so good, either.
For example, some Ultrabooks did not have the trackpad - "missed the boat" on that one, meaning that newer versions of the Ultrabook came out on the market soon and they all had the trackpad, plus high-quality displays.
Zhang Xin, who writes a column for Language Tips, has been with China Daily since 1988.

Advertisement for 'The Legend of Kungfu' at The Red Theater, including showtimes and contact information.

Advertisement for Chaoyang Theatre Acrobatics Macrocosm, including showtimes and contact information.