

# Daily Delight

SUNDAY • JULY 5 • 2026

## Mechanical Pencil Day

Which is better: a mechanical pencil or a regular pencil? On July 5th each year, the answer is mechanical because it's Mechanical Pencil Day! The first mechanical pencil was developed by Sampson Mordan and John Isaac Hawkins in 1822, and since the lead never needed sharpening, lots of companies jumped on the bandwagon. Since their invention, mechanical pencils now come in three types: ratchet-based, clutch-based, or screw-based, and can be made of plastic, metal, or wood.

To truthfully answer the original question of which is better, mechanical pencils never need sharpening and last a long time. In fact, today's mechanical pencils have enough graphite to write 45,000 words. Who actually had time to sit down and figure that out?



## Today in History



In 1986, Nancy Reagan hosted the reopening of the Statue of Liberty by cutting a red, white, and blue ribbon. It had been closed for four years. The restoration began in 1982 and was completed by a team of French and American architects, engineers, and conservators.

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activity assistant  
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## DID YOU KNOW? A Penalty Never Paid

On November 5, 1872, Susan B. Anthony voted in a presidential election. At that time, women were not allowed to vote. Two weeks later, Anthony was arrested, and eventually fined \$100 for voting illegally. "I shall never pay a dollar of your unjust penalty," she said—and she never did. It was more than 40 years before the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote in the United States.

## TRIVIA

Which of these actors is a U.S. citizen

- A** Leo McKem
- B** Hugh Grant
- C** Michael Caine
- D** Anthony Hopkins

## TODAY'S FUNNY

What do you call a rabbit with fleas?

*Bugs Bunny!*

## TODAY'S WISDOM

*"Young people need models, not critics."  
-John Wooden*

# WORD SEARCH

## For The Love Of Paperbacks



Books

Cheaper

Convenient

Lighter

Paperbacks

Softback

Lightweight

Popular

Portable

Reading

Smaller

Softcover

# SUDOKU

## How To Play:

Each 9x9 box is comprised of 9 smaller 3x3 boxes. Each of these smaller boxes must be filled in with numbers from 1-9. Each row and column of the larger 9x9 box should not have any numbers repeated.

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

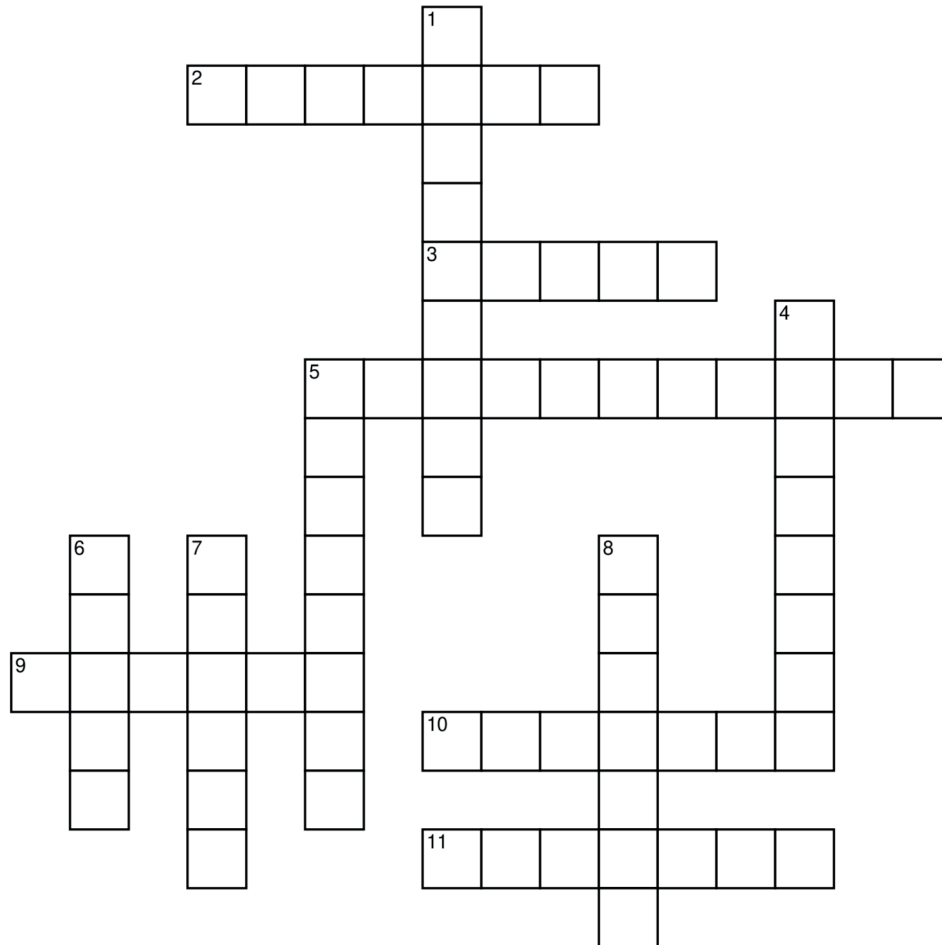
6				3	2			
				7		9	6	
5	2		8		9	3		4
3	4	6		1				
				4	8			3
	8					4	1	
	6	2		9	4			5
			6					8
9						1		

## Helpful Tip:

If you get stuck, try asking yourself "Where can I place number X in this row or column?" Scan to see if the number is already in that row, column, or box.

# MINI CROSSWORD

## U.S. Travel Destinations



### Across

- [2] City on Lake Michigan
- [3] Gamblers' mecca
- [5] Old Faithful's park
- [9] Luau locale
- [10] Magic town
- [11] Where Starbucks started

### Down

- [1] Home of the Grand Ole Opry
- [4] Four Corners state neighbor
- [5] \_\_\_\_\_ Sam
- [6] Dolphins' home
- [7] "The Last Frontier"
- [8] Home of the Braves

# Test Your Knowledge

**Solve the questions below to test your knowledge and give your brain a workout!**

In 1972, as a goodwill gesture during talks between the United States and China, what special gift did China send to the U.S.?

- A. Cherry Trees
- B. Fireworks
- C. Giant Pandas

In her 1976 best seller, humorist Erma Bombeck declared "The Grass is Greener \_\_\_\_\_?"

- A. Over the Septic Tank
- B. Over the Fence
- C. Over the Lawn

Solve the math problems:

$$\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ \times 52 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 89 \\ + 64 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 189 \\ - 42 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 98 \\ \div 4 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Which model appeared in the controversial Calvin Klein TV commercials in the 1980s?



# SOLUTIONS

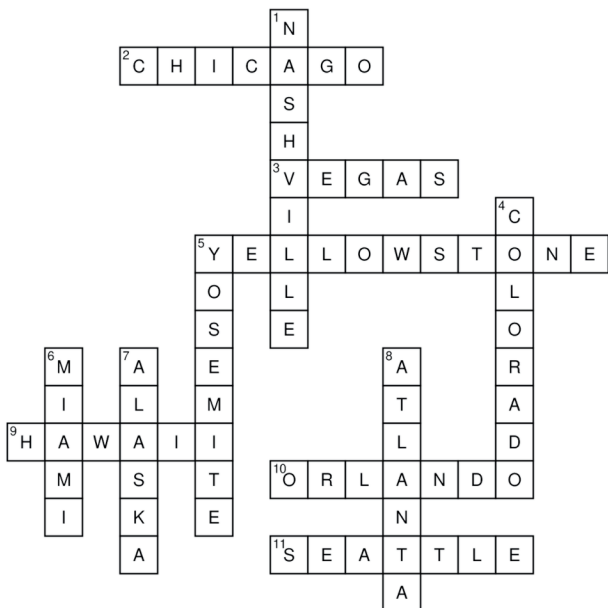
## Trivia Answer: D

Anthony Hopkins was born in Margam, South Wales, and he grew up in the small town of Port Talbot. However, in 2000, Hopkins became an American citizen, retaining his British citizenship.

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

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

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



**Answer:**  
C. Giant Panda

**Answer:**  
A. Over the Septic Tank

$$\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ \times 52 \\ \hline 312 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 89 \\ + 64 \\ \hline 153 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 189 \\ - 42 \\ \hline 147 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 98 \\ \div 4 \\ \hline 24.5 \end{array}$$

**Answer:**  
Brooke Shields, who was only 15 when the commercials were filmed.