

# Sharing stories & breaking bread together: Gen Z loves supper clubs

Yashaswi Kochar



Prachi Gupta and Saloni Gupta, founders of a Mumbai-based supper club, shared that "It takes us 6 to 7 months of planning for each menu. The creative process before a launch is extensive and detailed"

## What is a supper club?

A social dining experience where people gather — often in a host's home or a unique venue — to share a curated meal at a communal table. Unlike restaurants, supper clubs focus on intimacy, storytelling, community, and a shared experience

## Why the rise?

After COVID, people are excited to make in-person connections. Most supper clubs are held in metros — home to people from various cities for study or work. Toonika Guha, a supper club host from Gurgaon, says, "These people have left behind their homes for better prospects in these big cities. So supper clubs become a great way for them to meet new people in a new city."

People crave intimacy and good conversations over food. And that's what a meal has come to mean — it's definitely about the food, but more so, about what that food brings to us

— Mercy, a supper club attendee



Chef Punam Vaja, who has hosted supper clubs in various countries, shares that "the storytelling has always been at the heart of hosting for me"



The idea of a supper club is to have a "shared dinner experience"

## 'Friendships are formed over a meal'

At supper clubs, the dining table becomes more than just a place to eat — it transforms into a space for conversations, laughter, and new connections. As Toonika explains, "People generally book as groups, but we encourage everyone to interact with each other." Saloni and Prachi echo the sentiment, "The whole idea is to have a shared dinner experience, where people meet and bond while savouring a special cuisine. The communal table and our hosting style encourages people to connect." For chefs like Punam Vaja, who has hosted supper clubs in various countries, the joy lies not only in cooking but also in watching friendships form across the table: "New friendships are created from guests, who have been seated together at a table."

You're seated at a long table with strangers who soon stop feeling like strangers. Over the next few hours, you're taken through a multi-course meal, each dish telling a story, while conversations flow as easily as the tea. It's not just dinner, it's an evening of connection, flavours, and shared moments

— Prachi Gupta and Saloni Gupta, founders of a Mumbai-based supper club

## Can restaurants replace supper clubs?

Pranav, a supper club attendee, says, "A supper club experience has something that restaurants can never master - intimacy. They stand out as they are at actual homes." Chef Punam echoes this sentiment, "I have seen many popular London restaurants announcing supper club pop-ups, but they still fail to match what a genuine supper club stands for. There is storytelling, mood, and a sense of community that happens at the table, with a personal connection to the host that adds value to the experience."

## LEISURE

### SUDOKU CHALLENGE

Level: Medium

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

#### HOW TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9, without repeating the numbers in the same row, column or box. You can't change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

### TIMES HITORI

#### HOW TO PLAY

- A number may appear just once in each row or column. Eliminate repeat numbers by darkening cells. (see example)
- Darkened cells must never be adjacent in a row or column.
- Unmarked cells must create a single continuous area, undivided by darkened cells.
- Every time you darken a cell, you can automatically circle its vertical and horizontal neighbours, which means they cannot be eliminated.
- Any cell "sandwiched" between neighbours of the same value can be circled. (e.g. **6 4 6**)
- A "triple" is a special case of sandwich. Circle the centre cells, and darken the ends. (e.g. **6 6 6**)

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

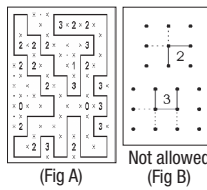
8	5	6	7	3	5	4	6
4	5	1	6	7	6	5	2
2	5	7	1	5	4	6	8
5	6	2	4	3	7	6	3
2	7	5	6	1	7	2	7
1	6	6	4	3	5	7	7
7	8	4	6	2	3	3	7
8	4	5	2	3	5	7	1

Example

### LOOP THE LOOP

#### RULES

- Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A).
- Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B).
- Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines.
- You can't draw lines around zeroes.
- Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



#### HOW TO BEGIN:

**Example (Fig A)** - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

**Hints:** Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a deadend (Fig B).

### THE DAILY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14					15			
16					17					18			
19					20					21			
					22					23			
24	25	26			27	28				29		30	31
32					33					34		35	
36					37					38			
39					40					41			
42					43					44		45	
					46					47			
49	50									51	52		
56										57			
59										60			
62										63			
										64			

By Jake Halperin

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#### ACROSS

- Petty quarrel
- Chesapeake and Delaware
- Outstanding papers?
- "That's a nauseating thought!"
- "We can ride together!"
- In-between dress length
- Nick Mohammed's "Ted Lasso" role
- Comic installment
- Piles (of)
- Forensics?
- "I need help!"
- Maintain a lab coat?
- Ghostly pale
- Grade below 70%
- Tip-toe frog violin motion
- Novelist Bellow
- Orderly groupings in computer science
- "What \_\_\_ the odds?"
- Geometry?
- Postscript's place
- Fierce fauna
- Frankenstein's helper
- Nachos topping
- "I'd call it average"
- Not very poetic
- Co. with a SoSecure mobile safety app
- Physics?
- "Funny Girl" co-star
- Elbow-to-wrist bones
- \_\_\_ of honor
- Formerly
- Instrument for many Bach compositions
- Writer Bombek
- Knotted up
- Empire State resident,

#### Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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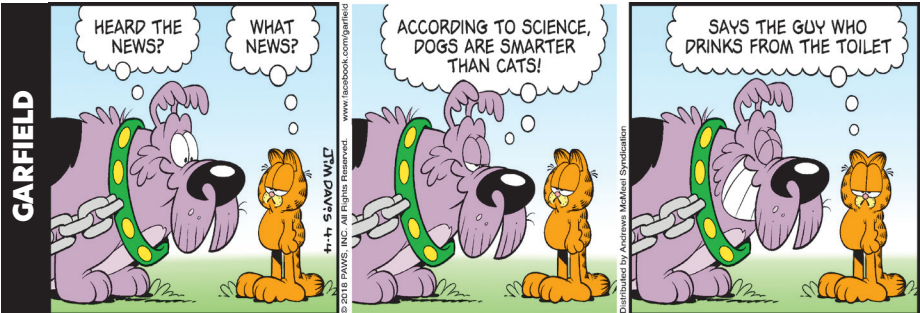
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- for short  
64 "Work it!"  
**DOWN**  
1 Lip-  
2 Crumble fruit  
3 Ballet opener  
4 Gender-neutral pronoun  
5 Type of 2-Down  
6 Architectural recess  
7 Branch of creationism  
8 Snide smile  
9 Sgt. Friday's declaration on "Dragnet"  
10 Petroleum trade ban  
11 Japanese food staple  
12 Wikipedia, e.g.  
14 Ostrich warning sound  
20 The Proterozoic, e.g.  
21 Composer born in Washington, D.C.  
24 Burros  
25 Cold plunge partner  
26 Where athletes kick up their heels?  
27 Record best updated  
28 Draw a blank out?  
30 Twistable treats  
31 Dog-tired  
33 Opening day pitcher, typically  
34 "Mm-hmm"  
37 Denigrate  
38 Opportunities for watch parties  
43 Holy  
45 "Save as" option  
47 Zac of "The Greatest Showman"  
48 Tennis score after deuce  
49 Height unit  
50 Ritz-Carlton alternative  
51 Microsoft browser  
52 Untrustworthy sort  
53 Noble rank below marquess  
54 Peruvian city with a San Isidro district  
55 WWII turning point

### SOLUTIONS TO GAMES/PUZZLES

<b>TIMES SUDOKU</b>	<b>LOOP THE LOOP</b>	<b>TIMES HITORI</b>

**SCRAMBLE**  
The strongest principle of \_\_\_ lies in human choice  
- George Eliot (6)

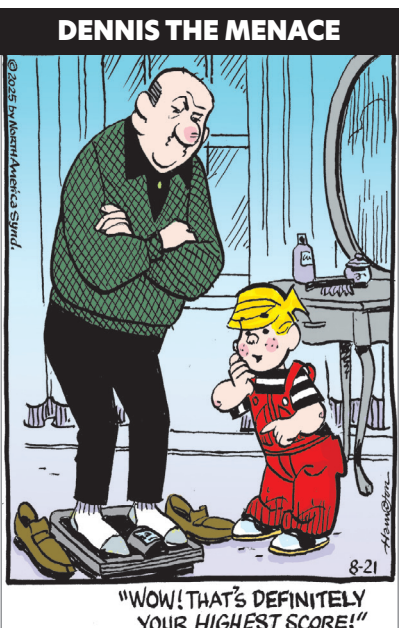


### SPELLATHON

Today's Ratings:  
09-average | 10-good |  
12-outstanding

C  
R  
A  
R  
E  
I

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, a letter can be used as many times as it appears in the puzzle. Each word must contain the central letter. There should be at least one seven letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed. British English Dictionary is used as reference.



### FINOLEX FORTUNE

Book Anupam V Kapil for app/written predictions:  
9822042295 or anupamvkapil@gmail.com.

See what the stars have in store for you - according to your moon sign.

**ARIES:** Break away from what you are doing. Your ideas may need to be presented in a more creative fashion. Your goals and plans for the future are of great importance. Keep your emotions in check, reduce your stress level.

**TAURUS:** Be calm and patient, prepare for exciting times. Be more diplomatic. Your domestic life is subject to some ups and downs. Luck is on your side and you are sure to win.

**GEMINI:** Try not to get worked up. Other people's insistence on doing everything by the book will annoy you. Let them get on with their thing while you do your thing in your own special way.

**CANCER:** Patience will be required. Allow others to take care of their own problems. Your words will be questioned. So choose your words carefully. Spirituality will loom in the background.

**LEO:** Remind your friends about their talents. Rest up for the next big wave that hits you. Your career goals may demand that you pay more attention to your needs. Consider a healthy exchange of ideas with people who know more than you. Rejuvenate your private self.

**VIRGO:** You need to be careful. Wait for the right time to introduce your abilities. Your ability to control your own destiny is not possible. You will make a good impression by showing your compassion. You may feel slightly confused over a problem in a personal or professional relationship.

**LIBRA:** Your roles will be changed at the start of a new adventure. This can be a great time for being inventive and imaginative. This should ensure your

ences into your life now. Travel plans are highlighted today. Helping others could be a loss.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Don't assume what others are thinking. Use your mind and body to display your talents and achieve what is beyond others' range. You can make an assignment an enriching experience. Differences may develop over personal plans or financial affairs in a close association or romantic relationship. Look for support.

**CAPRICORN:** Sort out any inner confusion. Stick to the high road today in all situations, as any forays into grey areas could bring disaster. This may be a very pleasant time to talk about personal matters.

**AQUARIUS:** You are inspired, you will probably need to balance this inspiration with down-to-earth planning and management. You are eager to express your ideas and opinions. Your constructive efforts will most likely be successful when you join others with a common goal, project, or creative interest.

**PISCES:** Express yourself with diplomacy and gentleness, which makes it easier for others to open up to you. This certainly is the time to be noticed. Someone will reach out to guide or assist you, which could prove to be invaluable. It is best to assume the world as exactly as it appears.