

# SCI-FI SUMMMER PUZZLE

The doctor woke up early to the sound of bulldozers. They were demolishing a house across the street, making space for some futuristic monstrosity. He'd been chased by assassins all night. The dream wasn't alien to him; he'd had it a few nights in a row, and hoped – against better judgement – that it wouldn't be back.

The doctor took his red and blue pills, which should adjust his mood to a calm serenity. As soon as they kicked in, he called his secretary.

Fifteen minutes later, Caroline materialized in his doorway. She'd been in a hurry and had only put on the most basic makeup.

"Good morning, doctor. Have you decided on a topic for the puzzle yet?"

"Not yet." The deadline was close, and he knew it.

"Hmm. Will you still try to finish it in time?"

"There is no 'try'. I'll do it, and I'll work all night if I have to. After all, the needs of the many outweigh

the needs of the few." The doctor sighed. "Or the one. I just wish I could go back in time and start earlier."

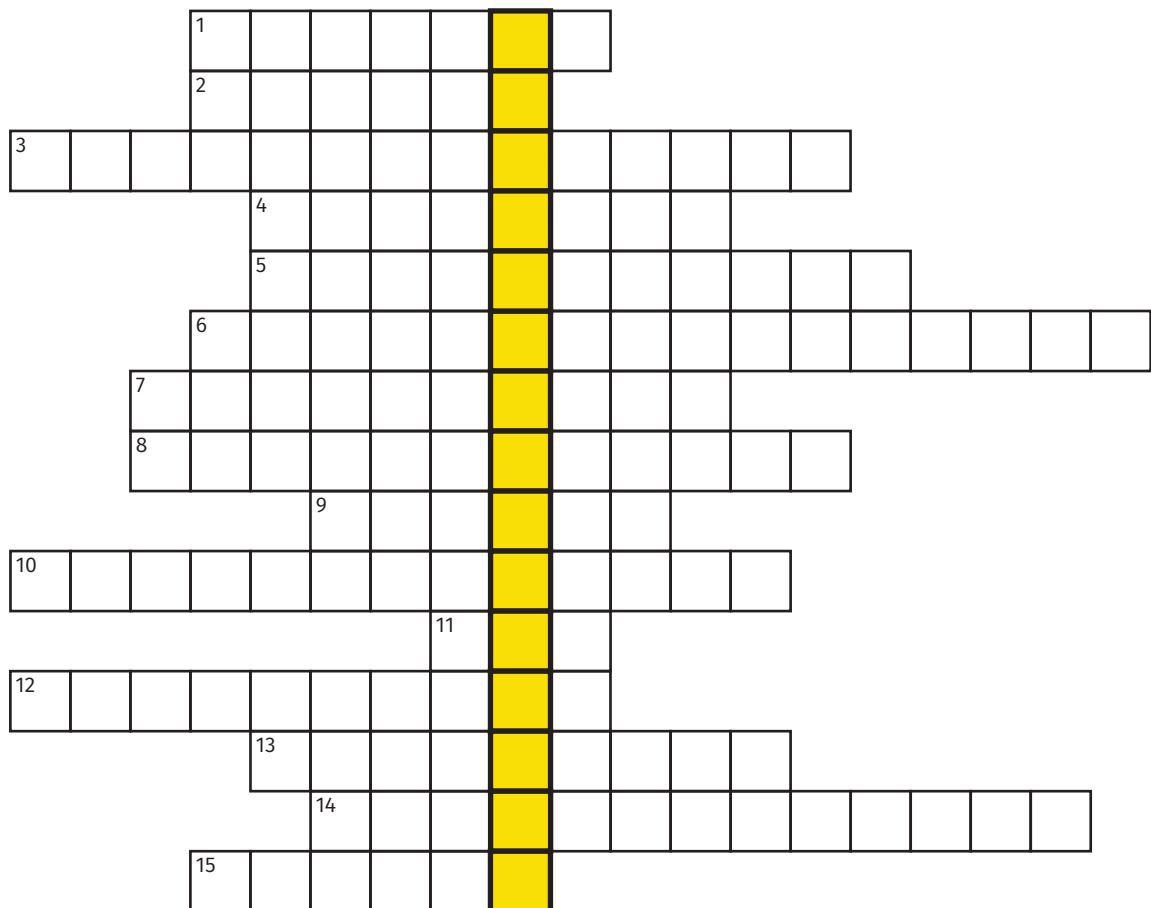
"Well, do take some time to relax. You're a doctor, not a miracle worker. Maybe have some cake..."

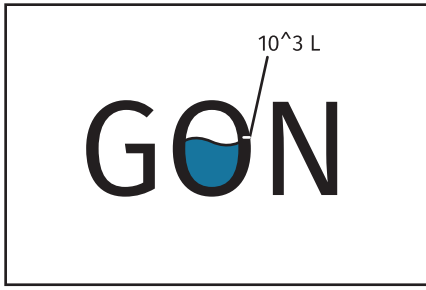
"I'm sorry, Caroline. I'm afraid I can't do that. The deadline is very soon. And besides, there is no cake." But a thought had taken off in the doctor's head and was now working its way through his brain at top speed. With renewed energy, he shot up the stairs and into his study.

He stayed there all day, but every time Caroline popped up to bring him coffee, she found him playing some old video game or watching sports on his laptop. She shook her head, expecting the worst.

It was late that night when the doctor finished. The last thing he did was typing out the final line to his puzzle's introduction:

*When going to space, never forget...*





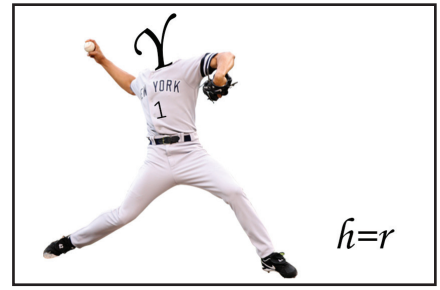
1

```
def █(x, y):
    if x >= y:
        return x
    return y

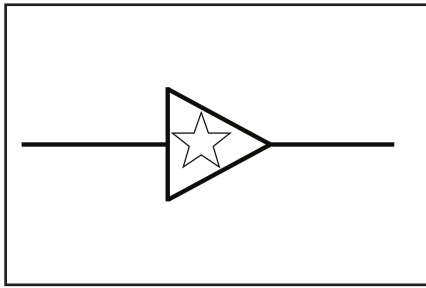
def █(x, y):
    if x >= y:
        return x
    return y
```

x = d

2



3



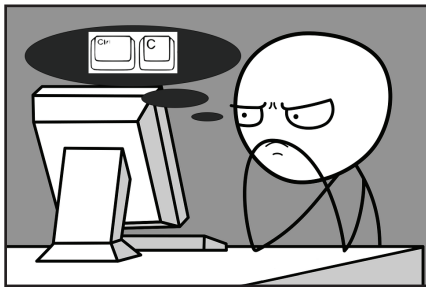
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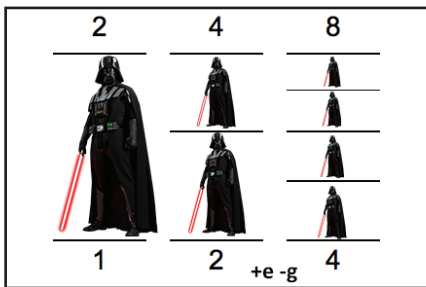
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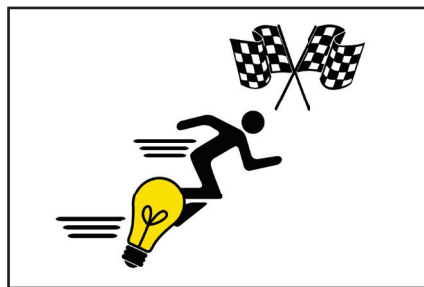
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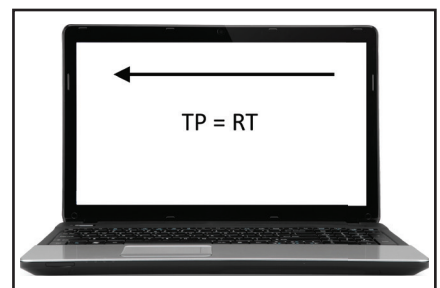
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13



14



15

This puzzle is based on the Dagblad van het Noorden's annual Dr. Denker Kerstpuzzel. It consists of fifteen mini-rebuses, all of which have something to do with science fiction. Fill in the

solutions in the corresponding lines (ignoring spaces) and you'll read, in the yellow column, what you absolutely shouldn't forget to bring when space-travelling.

Feel free to send in the solution to [magazine@svcover.nl](mailto:magazine@svcover.nl) once you've found it!

Jan van Houten 