

Sudoku Puzzles: Hard

The modern version of Sudoku was invented in 1979 by Howard Garns in USA (where it was called 'Number Place'). It became really popular in Japan in the 1980s and in the UK since late 2004. It is now quickly spreading worldwide. The word Sudoku is an abbreviation of a phrase which means "the digits must occur only once".

The aim of a Sudoku puzzle is to fill in the grid so that each row, each column and each box contains all the numbers from 1 to 9. Usually the grid is 9 by 9, using the numbers from 1 to 9, but the easier grids are smaller, using numbers from 1 to 4 or 1 to 6.

Simple eh! Of course not! Sometimes it is easy but often it can be fiendishly difficult. But it's fun to learn strategies for yourself by just having a go!

There are several levels of difficulty for you to try:

1. Easy. A 4 by 4 grid to start off, leading to a 6 by 6 grid.
2. Medium. 9 by 9 grids, but with plenty of numbers already in place and some helpful clues.
3. Hard. The hard puzzles have less numbers already in place and require more strategies to be used.
4. Fiendish and Demonly Headteacher. Only for experts. If you can't do them try asking your Headteacher! (They might become so engrossed they forget about the detention you got!).

This section is the Hard section – 10 puzzles

Good luck!



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Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Hard Puzzle 1

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | | | | | | 9 | 4 | |
| | | 3 | | | | | | 5 |
| | 9 | 2 | 3 | | 5 | | 7 | 4 |
| 8 | 4 | | | | | | | |
| | 6 | 7 | | 9 | 8 | | | |
| | | | 7 | | 6 | | | |
| | | | 9 | | | | 2 | |
| 4 | | 8 | 5 | | | 3 | 6 | |



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Hard Puzzle 1 answer

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



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Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Hard Puzzle 2

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



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Hard Puzzle 2 answer

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



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Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Hard Puzzle 3

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



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Hard Puzzle 3 answer

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



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Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down
and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Hard Puzzle 4

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



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Hard Puzzle 4 answer

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



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Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Hard Puzzle 5

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



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Hard Puzzle 5 answer

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



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Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down
and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Hard Puzzle 6

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



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Hard Puzzle 6 answer

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



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Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Hard Puzzle 7

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



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Hard Puzzle 7 answer

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



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Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down
and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Hard Puzzle 8

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



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Hard Puzzle 8 answer

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



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Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down
and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Hard Puzzle 9

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



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Hard Puzzle 9 answer

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



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Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down
and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Hard Puzzle 10

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



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Hard Puzzle 10 answer

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