PUZZLEBURY

The Sudoku Collection

100 puzzles from easy to expert

FREE SAMPLE



25 easy · 25 medium · 25 hard · 25 expert

2026 edition · easy to expert · answers at the back · puzzlebury.com

Welcome

This is a free sample

It contains all four technique guides and the first two puzzles from each part, with their answers. The full book has all one hundred and is £5.99 at puzzlebury.com/books/sudoku-collection/.

Welcome to a hundred Sudoku chosen for people who love solving on paper. They are arranged in four parts, Easy, Medium, Hard and Expert, and within each part they get a little harder as you go. Start at the beginning to build up your technique, or jump to the part that suits you.

Fair puzzles only

Every puzzle has exactly one solution and can be solved by logic alone: no guessing, no trial and error. We grade each one by the hardest technique it needs, not by counting clues, and each part opens with a page explaining the technique it introduces.

Two editions

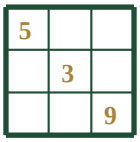
The large edition prints one big grid per page, with plenty of room for pencil marks. The compact edition prints two puzzles per page to save paper. The puzzles, numbering and answers are the same in both.

Printing

Print at “Actual size” or “100%” so the grids stay square. Pages are black on white and use very little ink. Answers are at the back, four to a page, and each puzzle page tells you where to find its answer.

Your copy

You're welcome to print as many copies as your own household needs. Please don't share the file or resell the puzzles. Thank you for supporting independent puzzle-making.



PART 1

Easy: finding singles

Every puzzle in this part can be solved using just two observations, again and again.

A naked single is a cell where only one digit can go. Look along its row, down its column and around its 3×3 box: if eight of the nine digits already appear somewhere in those, the ninth is the answer.

A hidden single is a digit with only one possible home. Pick a box and a missing digit, say 7. If every other empty cell in the box can see a 7 in its row or column, the 7 must go in the one cell left.

Tip: scan digit by digit. Take the 1s first, check every box that still needs a 1, then move on to the 2s. You'll often find several singles in one sweep.

1. Sudoku

Easy · Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9 exactly once.

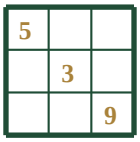
3	4		5			2	9	
9						6		3
8		5	9	6				
				2	1	9	7	4
		4		3		8		
2	7	8	6	9				
				5	8	4		2
4		1						5
	8	2			6		1	9

2. Sudoku

Easy · Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9 exactly once.

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



PART 2

Medium: pencil marks and locked candidates

Medium puzzles give fewer clues, so you will sometimes run out of singles. Now it pays to pencil small candidate digits into the corners of cells.

Locked candidates (pointing): if, inside one box, every possible place for a 4 lies in the same row, then the 4 for that row must be in this box. You can cross 4 off every other cell of that row outside the box.

Locked candidates (claiming): it works the other way too. If in one row every possible place for a 4 lies inside a single box, cross 4 off the rest of that box.

After each elimination, look again for singles: one removal often unlocks several.

26. Sudoku

Medium · Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9 exactly once.

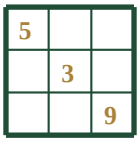
				5				
			4			6	3	5
6			1		9	8		
		3	5	7			8	9
5	1			2	6	7		
		9	8		5			4
3	7	5			1			
				9				

27. Sudoku

Medium · Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9 exactly once.

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



PART 3

Hard: pairs and triples

Hard puzzles stall unless you spot groups of cells working together.

Naked pair: two cells in the same row, column or box whose only candidates are the same two digits, say 3 and 8. Those two digits must go in those two cells, in some order, so you can remove 3 and 8 from every other cell in that unit. A naked triple works the same way with three cells and three digits.

Hidden pair: two digits that can only go in the same two cells of a unit. Those cells must hold those digits, so any other candidates in them can be erased.

Keep your pencil marks tidy here: these patterns are much easier to see in a neat grid.

51. Sudoku

Hard · Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9 exactly once.

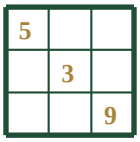
9				3		8		
7					8		6	
		4					9	7
				1			2	
2				7				9
	4			5				
4	9					3		
	6		1					4
		2		8				5

52. Sudoku

Hard · Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9 exactly once.

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



PART 4

Expert: X-Wing, Swordfish and XY-Wing

Every expert puzzle needs at least one of these patterns, and none needs guesswork.

X-Wing: in two rows, a digit can only go in the same two columns. Whichever way round it falls, it will occupy both of those columns, so remove it from every other cell in those two columns. (The same works with rows and columns swapped.) A Swordfish is the three-row version.

XY-Wing: a pivot cell with candidates {A, B} sees two cells with {A, C} and {B, C}. Whatever the pivot turns out to be, one of those two cells must be C, so any cell that sees both of them cannot be C.

Take your time. Expert puzzles reward a methodical sweep through each technique in turn.

76. Sudoku

Expert · Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9 exactly once.

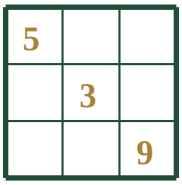
	5	3						7
4	6			2			3	
9						1		2
				3			2	9
			9		8			
5	8			4				
8		7						6
	2			9			1	8
6						7	9	

77. Sudoku

Expert · Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9 exactly once.

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



Answers

Every answer, four to a page, in puzzle order. Bold digits were given; grey digits are the solution.

Answers

The Sudoku Collection · answer page 1 of 2

1. Sudoku · Easy · page 4

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

2. Sudoku · Easy · page 5

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

26. Sudoku · Medium · page 7

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

27. Sudoku · Medium · page 8

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

Answers

The Sudoku Collection · answer page 2 of 2

51. Sudoku · Hard · page 10

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

52. Sudoku · Hard · page 11

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

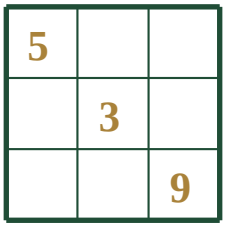
76. Sudoku · Expert · page 13

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

77. Sudoku · Expert · page 14

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

Bold characters were given in the puzzle; grey ones are the solution.



Enjoyed these?

The full The Sudoku Collection has 100 puzzles in four parts, from easy to expert, each part opening with a guide to the technique it needs.

£5.99 · puzzlebury.com/books/sudoku-collection/