

GETTING STARTED WITH 9x9

The Mini Monsters **LOVE** sudoku puzzles! Follow along as they help YOU solve a standard 9X9 puzzle.

Sudoku is a Japanese abbreviation of the phrase, 'the digits must occur only once.'

Sudoku puzzles require you to find the missing numbers in a 9x9 grid. The grid is divided into 9 square blocks. The blocks form 9 rows and 9 columns.

Numbers 1 through 9 only occur once in a row, column, or block.

To start, scan the column, row, or box with the most numbers. Fill in the empty box with the missing number in the column, row, or block using the process of elimination. What numbers are missing?

For 9x9 grids, it's highly recommended that you pencil in 'tiny number' possibilities in the empty box as you solve.

Please do not guess. Use logic.

Jump in and solve the easy level sudoku puzzles at the end of the book! The solutions are provided.

The more puzzles you do, the faster you will get at solving them. Naturally, your brain will **REWIRE** and you will develop your own strategies to solve the grid. Then, you can progress to higher level puzzles.

Go ahead. Grab your pencil and your brain!

lmdjones

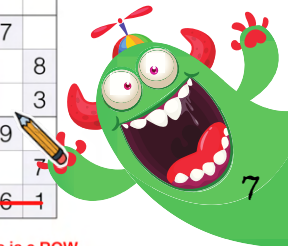
This is a BOX.

This is COLUMN.

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

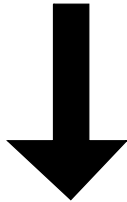
This is a BLOCK.

This is a ROW.



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

This is a standard 9x9 sudoku grid.



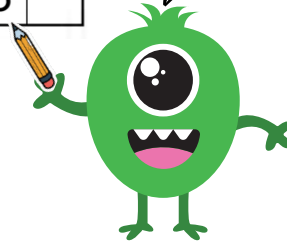
	7			2	4	5	1	
	4			1	7	2	9	
	6	2		9				7
2	5		1					8
4			7	8	2			9
7					5		2	4
6				5		7	3	
	8	5	2	7			4	
	2	7	4	3			6	

There are 9 blocks.

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

8 is the solution for this box.

Your eyes should focus on this column.



Let's begin by looking for the row, column, or block with the MOST numbers.

The only numbers missing in the column are 5, 7, 8.

Number 8 is already in block 6.

In block 9, numbers 3, 4, 6 are assigned to the column.

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

7 cannot go in this box because block 5 has a 7 in the same row.



7 is the only solution to this box.

Now, you are on your way to solving one column!

You can add the numbers 5 and 7.

For this grid, the 7s are filled in the other blocks.

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



5 is the solution
for this box.

One column is complete!

This column is solved by PROCESS OF
ELIMINATION.

You must MASTER this technique to complete a
block, column, or row for most 9X9 grids, no
matter what the level of the puzzle—easy,
medium, hard, extreme!

Notice that many of the blocks have 5s.

Let's move on!

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

1 is solution for this box.
 Blocks 2, 3, 5 have 1s in
 different rows and columns.



In NUMERICAL ORDER, let's start looking at numbers on the grid.

Let's begin with number 1.

Where else could you fill in number 1?

Blocks 2, 3, 5 have 1s.

You can solve the boxes in any order.
 Just make sure you solve each box with logic!

The Mini Monsters will help by adding 'tiny pencil numbers' to keep track of your progress.

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

Where else could you fill in number 1?

2 will go in this box. Do you see why?



1s are filled in blocks 1, 2, 3, 5. It looks like a 1 will go somewhere in this column, block 8.

Let's check on number 2!

