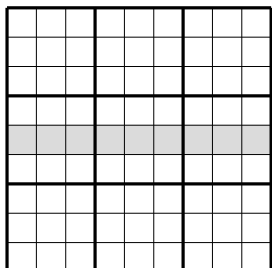


Sudoku rules cheat sheet

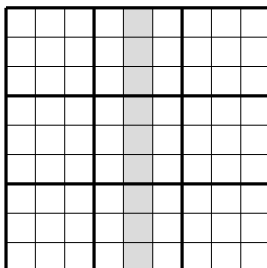
Fill the empty cells with digits 1 to 9. Keep every starting digit unchanged.
All three rules below apply at the same time.

1. Row



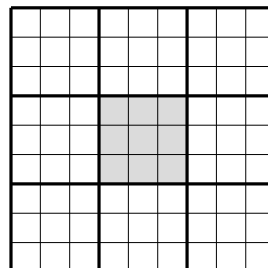
Each horizontal row must contain the digits 1 through 9 exactly once.

2. Column



Each vertical column must contain the digits 1 through 9 exactly once.

3. Box



Each outlined 3 by 3 box must contain the digits 1 through 9 exactly once.

First move: one missing digit

A row reads 1, 2, 3, 4, blank, 6, 7, 8, 9. Its only missing digit is 5. In a correctly entered puzzle, the empty cell must be 5; check its column and box too.

Know your grid

Cell: One square in the grid. A standard Sudoku has 81 cells.

Given: A digit printed in the starting puzzle. Keep it unchanged.

Unit: One row, column or box. Each unit contains nine cells.

Candidate: A digit still possible in a cell; write it as a small pencil mark.

Elimination: Removing a candidate after proving it cannot go in that cell.

Your solving routine

1. Start with a row, column or box that has only a few empty cells.
2. List its missing digits, then check the crossing rows, columns and boxes.
3. Place a digit only when you can explain why it is forced. Fitting without a repeat is not enough.
4. Update pencil marks in the same row, column and box after each placement.
5. When the grid is full, check all 27 units and confirm that every given is unchanged.

These are the rules for standard 9 by 9 Sudoku. Diagonals do not need distinct digits unless a variant explicitly adds that rule. No arithmetic is needed.