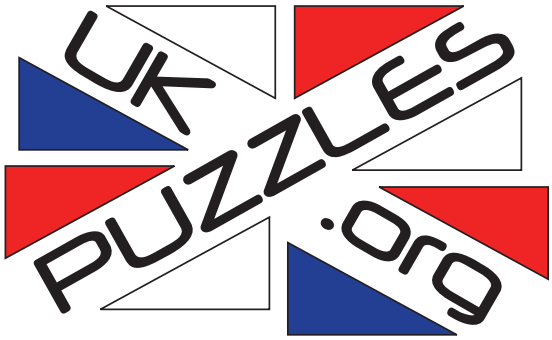


UK Sudoku Championship 2026

&

World Sudoku Championship Qualification

INSTRUCTION BOOKLET

Friday 22nd May - Monday 25th May

2 hours

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Introduction. These are the instructions for the 2026 UK Sudoku Championship, hosted and organised by the UK Puzzle Association. This is an online Sudoku competition to be printed out and solved against the clock. Any questions related to these instructions should be raised and discussed in the competition discussion thread: *http://forum.ukpuzzles.org/viewtopic.php?f=5&t=2835*.

UK Sudoku Championship. Results of participants eligible for a British passport will be considered for the UK Sudoku Championship. The highest scoring British participant will be the UK Sudoku Champion for 2026.

Additionally, the top two scoring participants will qualify to represent the UK team at the 2026 World Sudoku Championships in Kolkata, India. For more information on the qualifying process, see:

http://www.ukpuzzles.org/qualification.php.

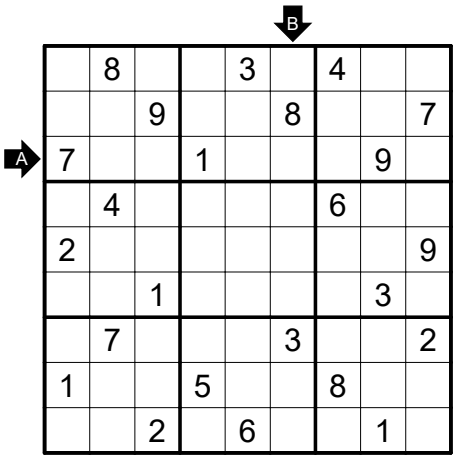
International participation is warmly welcomed.

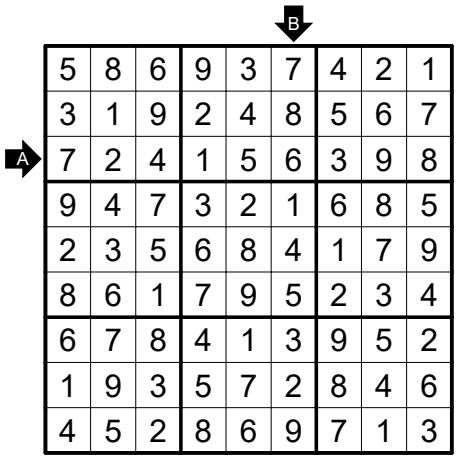
Registration. To participate in the championship you will need to be registered online at the UKPA forums. You can register here: *http://forum.ukpuzzles.org/ucp.php?mode=register*. During the registration process you will be required to enter your real name and your nationality.

Schedule. Shortly before the championship starts, the password protected PDF file will be made available at *http://www.ukpuzzles.org/contests.php?contestid=75*. It is recommended you download the PDF before you retrieve the password.

The championship will start at **15:00 BST (GMT+1), Friday 22nd May 2026**, when the password for the PDF will be made available. Upon retrieving the password, you will have **2 hours** to solve the puzzles and submit your answers via the entry page. You will not be able to submit any answers after your two hours are up. The championship will end at **01:55 BST (GMT+1), Tuesday 26th May**; as such it is highly recommended that you retrieve the password and start solving before **23:55 BST (GMT+1), Monday 25th May**.

Answer Entry & Submission. To submit your answers, you will need to go to the answer submission page: *http://www.ukpuzzles.org/answers.php?contestid=75*. This is a form with entries corresponding to each puzzle. In each puzzle there are two rows and/or columns indicated by arrows labelled ”A” and ”B”. The answer key is given by the contents of A, then the contents of B, separated by a comma with no spaces. Rows should be read from left to right, and columns from top to bottom.





The correct key for this solved puzzle is: **724156398,786145329**.

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Participation is anticipated to be very high and appeals will only be upheld in exceptional circumstances. Therefore it is **VERY IMPORTANT** that you check that each answer key submitted is correct. Upon hitting the submit button, your answers will be sent to the server. You may submit answers as many times as you like, but only the last received keys will be subject to scoring.

Urgent matters arising during the contest should be directed towards *liane@ukpuzzles.org*. In the event of the web hosting service failing during your participation, e-mail your answer keys before your 2 hours is completed. Answers submitted this way will only be accepted if a hosting failure, or equivalent, has occurred.

Scoring and Bonuses. Points for successfully solved puzzles will be awarded according to the following table.

Puzzle	Points	Puzzle	Points
Classic Sudoku	25	Counting Circles Sudoku	51
Deficit Sudoku	25	Battenburg Sudoku	33
Surplus Sudoku	18	Anti-Diagonal Sudoku	28
Linked 6x6 Classic Sudokus	20	Exclusion Sudoku	40
Classic Sudoku	25	Search Closest Nine Sudoku	31
Ratio Pairs Sudoku	29	X-Sums Sudoku	34
Killer Sudoku	70	Region Sum Lines Sudoku	57
Fortress Sudoku	75	Scattered Sudoku	55
Thermo Sudoku	45	Sum Pairrows Sudoku	59
		TOTAL:	**720**

Participants who submit correct answer keys for all of the puzzles before the allotted 2 hours are up will be awarded **6 points** for each minute saved, as recorded by the last submission time to the server. Late submissions will not be accepted, so it is recommended that answers are submitted as you solve, rather than waiting until time is running out.

A partial bonus of **2 points** for each minute saved will apply if all but one submitted answer keys are correct.

N.B. Although the points allocated to a particular puzzle are a general indication of its difficulty and the time expected to solve it, it is possible that your individual experience may vary greatly.

Code of Conduct. All participants are expected to solve the puzzles honestly and fairly. You are not permitted to use any external solving aids of any form or receive assistance from any other individual.

It is strictly forbidden to discuss any details of the championship puzzles, or make their contents known to others via any medium whilst the contest is live.

The championship organisers reserve the right to disqualify any participant judged to have acted with improper conduct. The decisions made by the organisers are final.

Acknowledgements. The championship has been organised and coordinated by Calum Mailer. The competition puzzles have been provided by Calum Mailer. Example puzzles have been provided by Tom Collyer and Calum Mailer. We thank Tantan Dai, Chiel Beenhakker, Nikola Zivanovic, Lennart Muijres, Alex Robinson, and Liane Robinson for helping to test the puzzles.

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Rules and Example Puzzles

N.B. The example puzzles are a true reflection in quantity, grid dimension and format of the corresponding competition puzzles. The competition puzzles will appear at a significantly larger size - one per page. The difficulty of an example puzzle may not be reflective of the difficulty of the corresponding competition puzzle.

It is recommended that both example and competition puzzles are printed from a PDF viewer, and not directly from a web browser.

1. Classic Sudoku — 25 points

Rules: Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell in the grid such that each row, column and marked 3×3 box contains each number exactly once.

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

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

2. Deficit Sudoku — 25 points

Rules: Place a number from 1-7 in each empty cell in the grid such that each row and column contains each number exactly once, and each marked 6-cell region contains each number at most once.

	1	2	5	6	4	
	5				7	
	7				3	
	4				2	
	6	3	4	2	5	

4	3	6	7	5	1	2
7	1	2	5	6	4	3
2	5	4	3	1	7	6
6	7	1	2	4	3	5
3	4	5	6	7	2	1
1	6	3	4	2	5	7
5	2	7	1	3	6	4

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3. Surplus Sudoku — 18 points

Rules: Place a number from 1-7 in each empty cell in the grid such that each row and column contains each number exactly once, and each marked 8-cell region contains each number at least once.

			3			
	3	6	2	5	4	
	5				7	
4	2				6	3
	1				3	
	4	1	6	3	5	
			5			

1	6	4	3	7	2	5
7	3	6	2	5	4	1
3	5	2	1	6	7	4
4	2	5	7	1	6	3
5	1	7	4	2	3	6
2	4	1	6	3	5	7
6	7	3	5	4	1	2

4. Linked 6x6 Classic Sudokus — 20 points

Rules: In each grid, place a number from 1-6 in each empty cell such that each row, column and marked 3×2 box contains each number exactly once. The number placed in a cell in the left grid must be different from the number placed in the corresponding cell in the right grid.

			4		
		6		2	
	1				5
3				1	
	6		2		
		4			

				6	1
			2		4
		4		2	
	2		3		
2		6			
5	4				

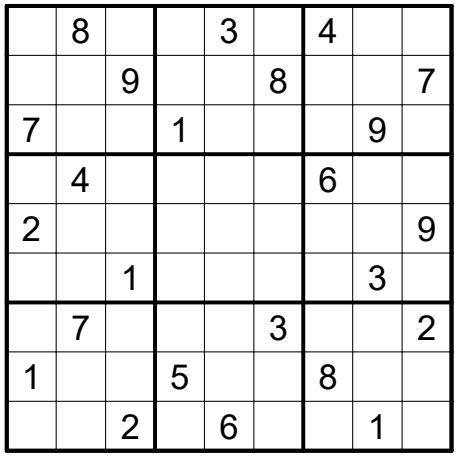
1	2	3	4	5	6
4	5	6	1	2	3
6	1	2	3	4	5
3	4	5	6	1	2
5	6	1	2	3	4
2	3	4	5	6	1

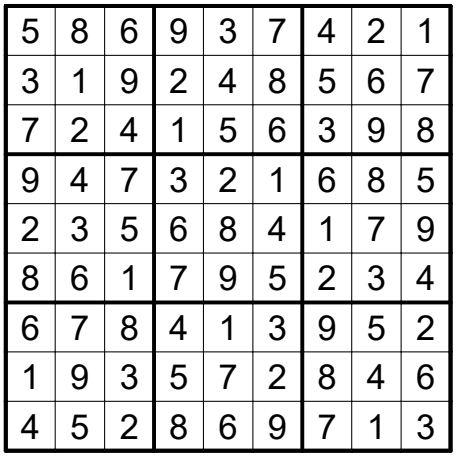
4	3	2	5	6	1
1	6	5	2	3	4
3	5	4	1	2	6
6	2	1	3	4	5
2	1	6	4	5	3
5	4	3	6	1	2

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5. Classic Sudoku — 25 points

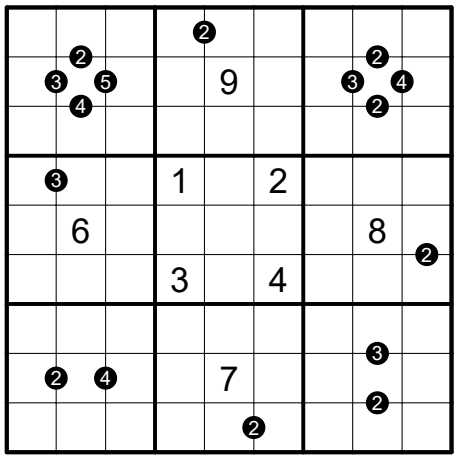
Rules: Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell in the grid such that each row, column and marked 3×3 box contains each number exactly once.

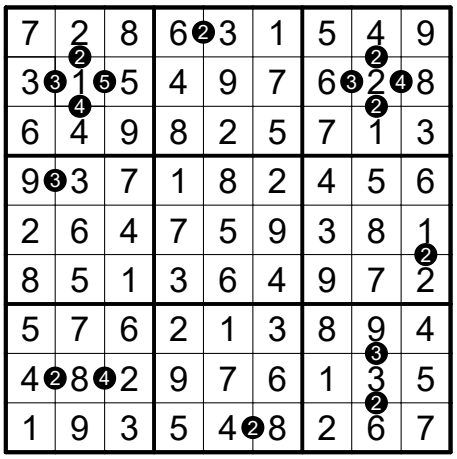




6. Ratio Pairs Sudoku — 29 points

Rules: Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell in the grid such that each row, column and marked 3×3 box contains each number exactly once. Digits separated by a black dot have a ratio indicated by the clue in the dot. e.g. A dot reading ”3” indicates that the two digits have a ratio of 1:3, such as 1 and 3 or 2 and 6.

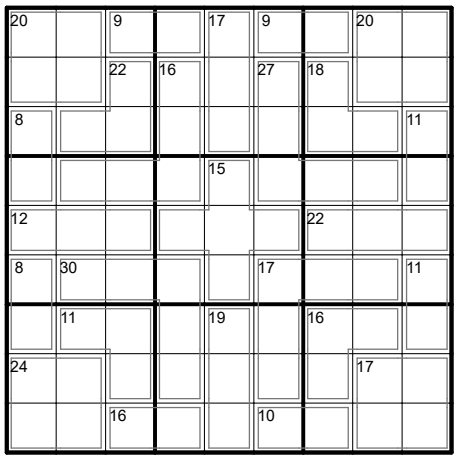


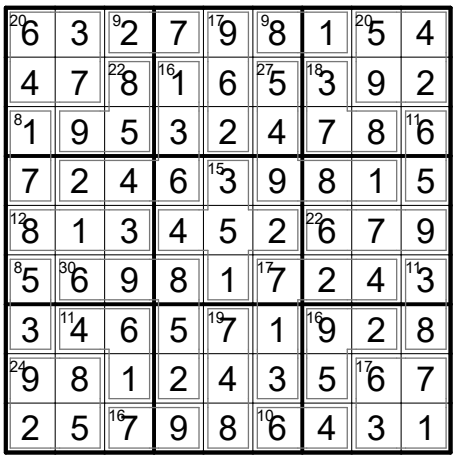


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7. Killer Sudoku — 70 points

Rules: Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell in the grid such that each row, column and marked 3×3 box contains each number exactly once. The numbers placed in each marked cage must sum to the total given in its top-left. Numbers must not repeat in cages.





8. Fortress Sudoku — 75 points

Rules: Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell in the grid such that each row, column and marked 3×3 box contains each number exactly once. A number placed in a shaded cell must be strictly greater than numbers placed in adjacent unshaded cells.

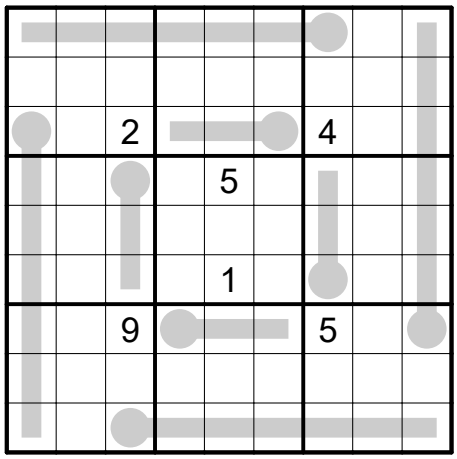
4								6
	5	6				2	1	
	2						3	
			1		5			
	8			4			9	
			3		7			
	3						2	
	6	1				4	5	
9								1

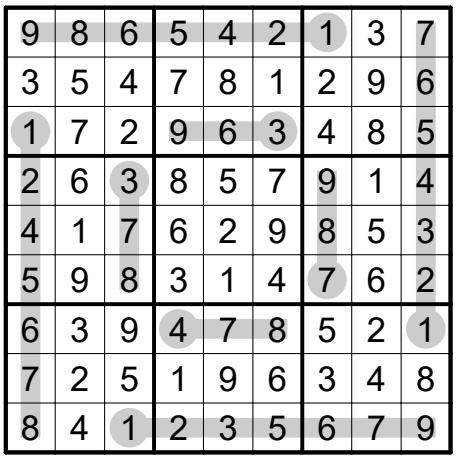
4	1	3	8	5	2	9	7	6
8	5	6	9	7	3	2	1	4
7	2	9	4	6	1	8	3	5
3	4	2	1	9	5	6	8	7
1	8	7	2	4	6	5	9	3
6	9	5	3	8	7	1	4	2
5	3	8	6	1	4	7	2	9
2	6	1	7	3	9	4	5	8
9	7	4	5	2	8	3	6	1

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9. Thermo Sudoku — 45 points

Rules: Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell in the grid such that each row, column and marked 3×3 box contains each number exactly once. Starting at the "bulb," numbers placed along each marked thermometer must form a strictly increasing sequence.

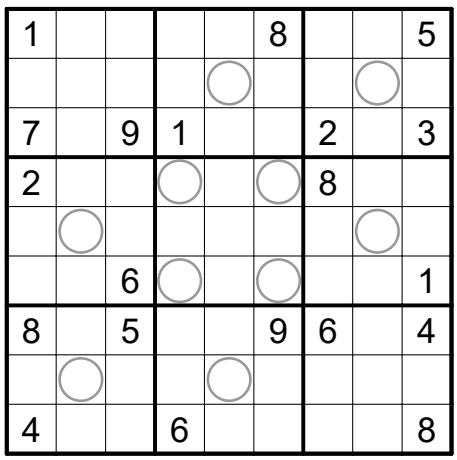


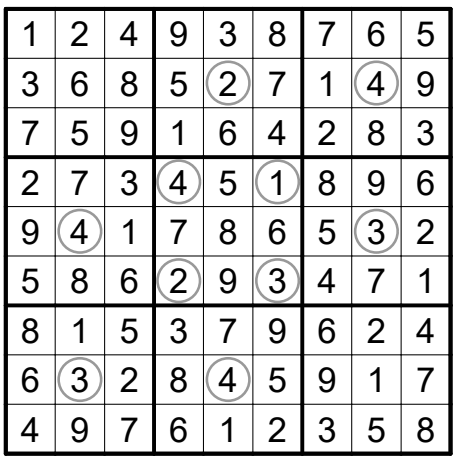


9	8	6	5	4	2	1	3	7
3	5	4	7	8	1	2	9	6
1	7	2	9	6	3	4	8	5
2	6	3	8	5	7	9	1	4
4	1	7	6	2	9	8	5	3
5	9	8	3	1	4	7	6	2
6	3	9	4	7	8	5	2	1
7	2	5	1	9	6	3	4	8
8	4	1	2	3	5	6	7	9

10. Counting Circles Sudoku — 51 points

Rules: Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell in the grid such that each row, column and marked 3×3 box contains each number exactly once. A circled digit indicates exactly how many circles contain that digit.



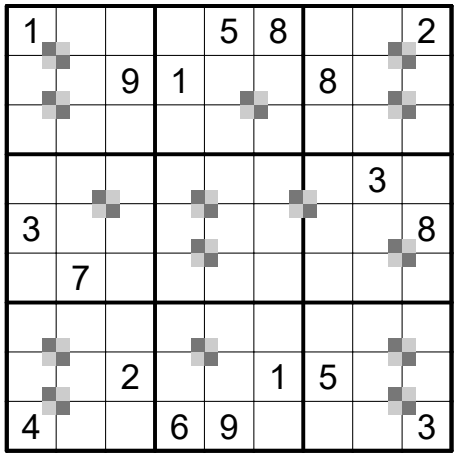


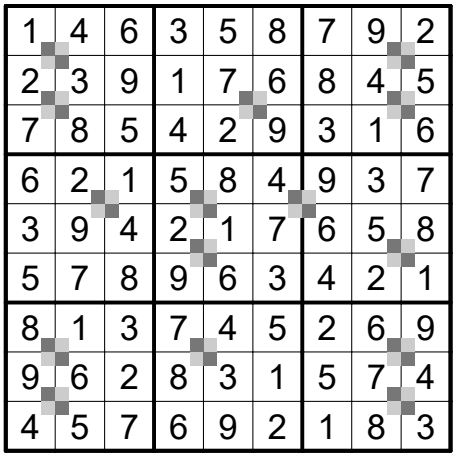
1	2	4	9	3	8	7	6	5
3	6	8	5	2	7	1	4	9
7	5	9	1	6	4	2	8	3
2	7	3	4	5	1	8	9	6
9	4	1	7	8	6	5	3	2
5	8	6	2	9	3	4	7	1
8	1	5	3	7	9	6	2	4
6	3	2	8	4	5	9	1	7
4	9	7	6	1	2	3	5	8

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11. Battenburg Sudoku — 33 points

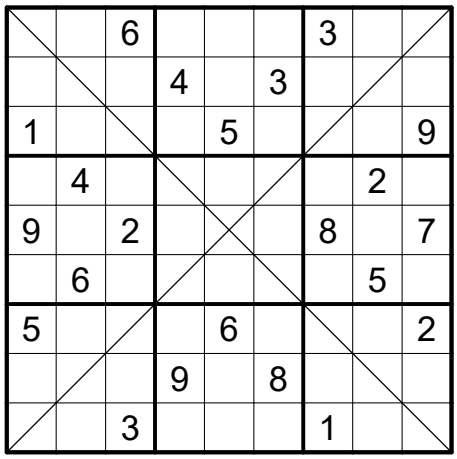
Rules: Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell in the grid such that each row, column and marked 3×3 box contains each number exactly once. Digits in cells surrounding a checkerboard pattern must alternate odd and even. All checkerboards are given.

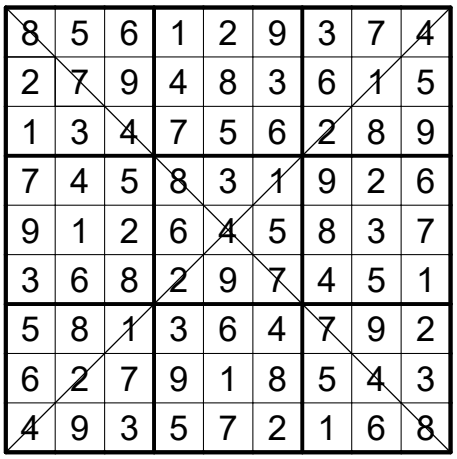




12. Anti-Diagonal Sudoku — 28 points

Rules: Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell in the grid such that each row, column and marked 3×3 box contains each number exactly once. Each marked diagonal must contain exactly three different numbers.

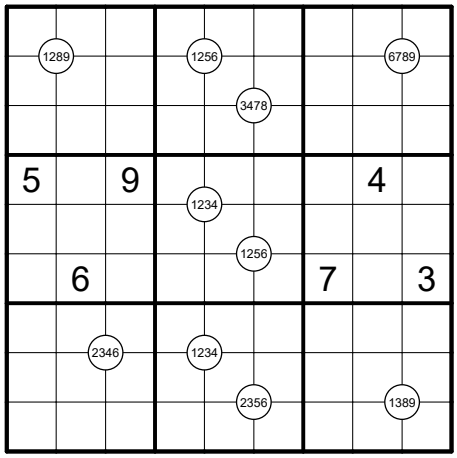


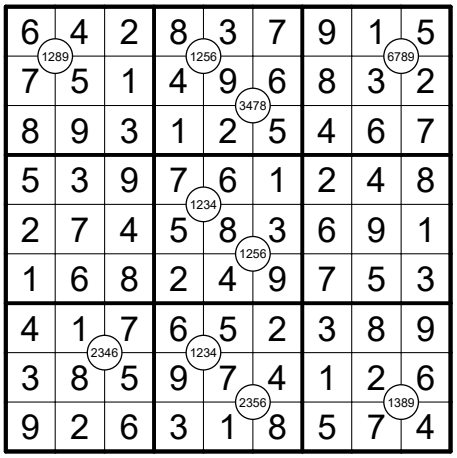


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13. Exclusion Sudoku — 40 points

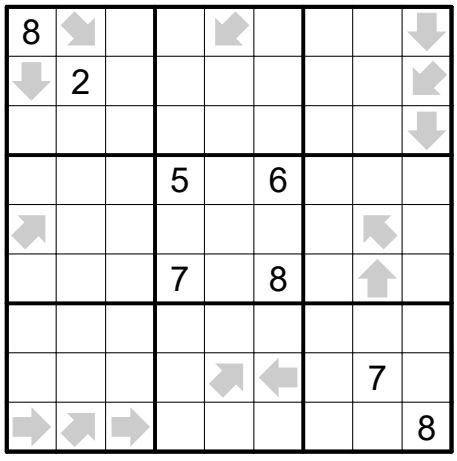
Rules: Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell in the grid such that each row, column and marked 3×3 box contains each number exactly once. A digit in a white circle may NOT appear in the four cells surrounding that circle.

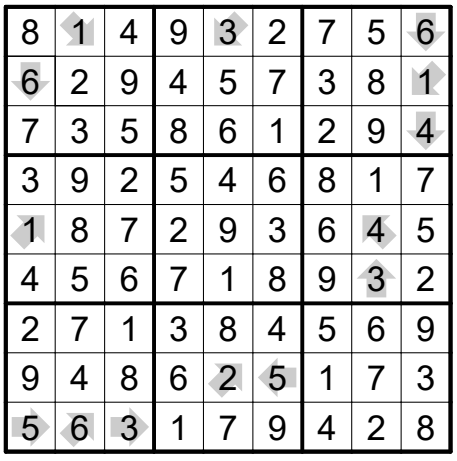




14. Search Closest Nine Sudoku — 31 points

Rules: Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell in the grid such that each row, column and marked 3×3 box contains each number exactly once. Some arrows are marked in the grid. Each arrow points to the digit 9 in the respective row, column or diagonal. The digit in the cell with the arrow is the distance from this cell to the corresponding digit 9. For each diagonally oriented arrow, the digit in the cell with the arrow shows the distance to the closest digit 9 in that direction.

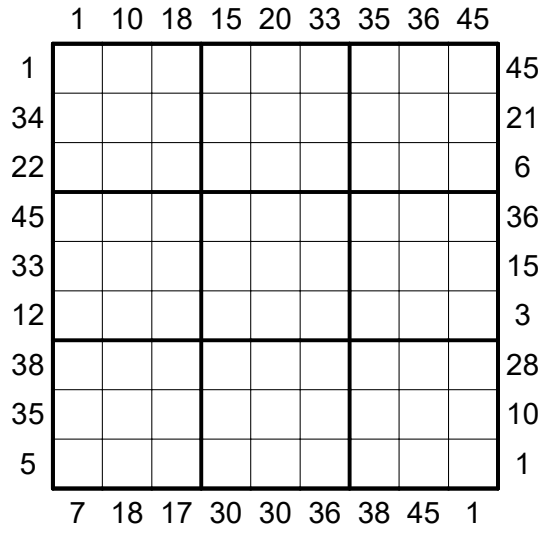


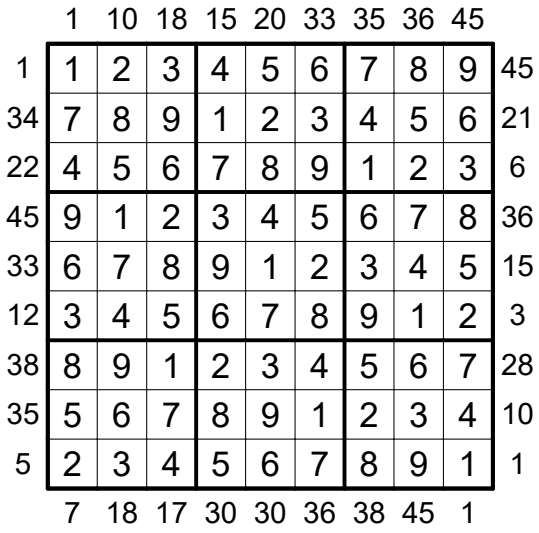


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15. X-Sums Sudoku — 34 points

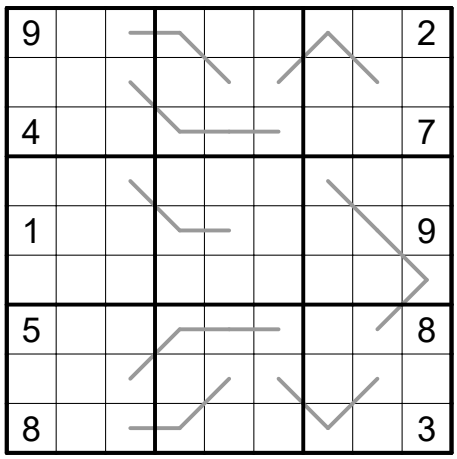
Rules: Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell in the grid such that each row, column and marked 3×3 box contains each number exactly once. The clues outside the grid indicate the sum of the first X numbers placed in the corresponding direction, where X is equal to the first number placed in that direction.

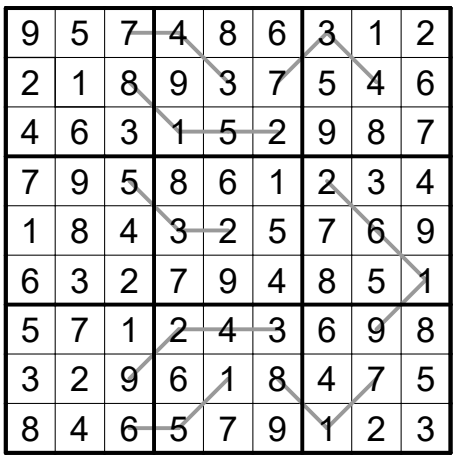




16. Region Sum Lines Sudoku — 57 points

Rules: Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell in the grid such that each row, column and marked 3×3 box contains each number exactly once. For each line, digits on the line have an equal sum within each box it passes through.

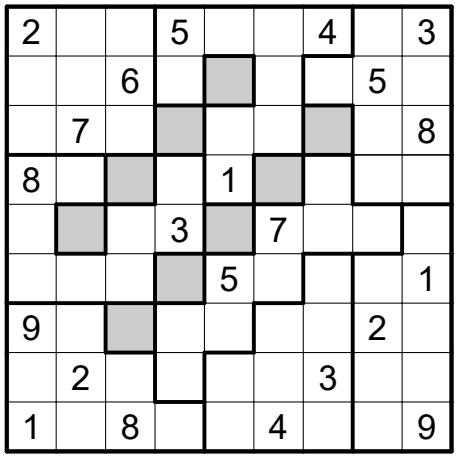


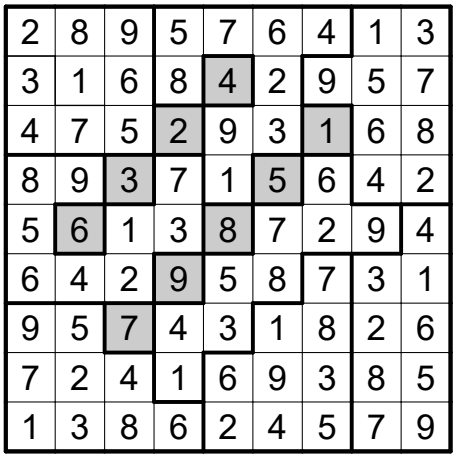


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17. Scattered Sudoku — 55 points

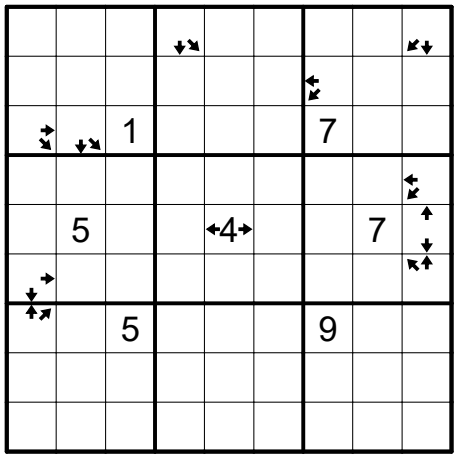
Rules: Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell in the grid such that each row, column and marked 3×3 box contains each number exactly once. Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell in the grid such that each row, column and marked 9-cell region contains each number exactly once. The 9 shaded cells form an additional 9-cell region.

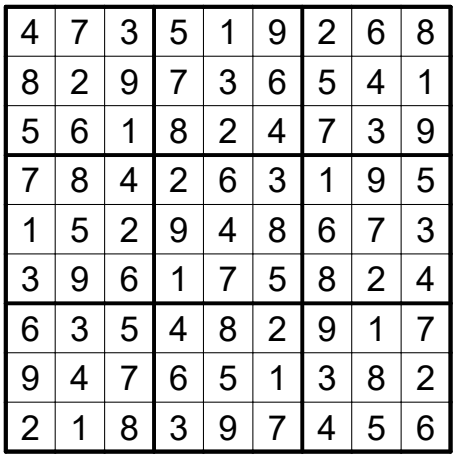




18. Sum Pairrows Sudoku — 59 points

Rules: Place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell in the grid such that each row, column and marked 3×3 box contains each number exactly once. If a cell with two arrows contains the digit N, then the two cells N steps away in the indicated directions will sum to N.





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