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## The Puzzle Of Sudoku Puzzles

By Terry Solomon

Sudoku Puzzles are, in simple terms, number games. In the United States, Sudoku Puzzles are

also referred as Number Place, but the term sudoku is of Japanese origin. It basically means multiple isolations, but the term is actually the Japanese abbreviation of a longer phrase, Suuji wa dokushin ni kagiru, which, when translated, would mean "the digits must remain single".

These puzzles were first published in the United States in 1979 by Dell magazine which gave the numbers game the name Numbers Place. Sudoku Puzzles were eventually noticed and brought to Japan by Nikoli Company Limited, a puzzle publishing firm, which gave the game its trademark name Sudoku.

Sudoku then went full circle when US-based Kappa reprinted Nikoli's Sudoku in the magazine GAMES under the name Squared Away. Subsequently, Sudoku Puzzles gained popularity in other countries, particularly in the United Kingdom, where it was published in the London-based newspaper The Times. Additionally, the game was also included in a number of puzzle anthologies, like The Giant 1001 Puzzle Book, under the heading Nine Numbers.

Sudoku puzzles are played on a grid measuring 9 x 9. This grid is often made up of 3 x 3 subgrids, regions, or cells. It starts with various numbers starting from 1 through 9. Some cells of the grid already contain numbers, which are referred as givens. The object of the game is to fill in the empty cells, one number in each, so that every column, row, and region each contain the numbers 1 through 9 only once. Therefore, each number in the overall grid is unique, or isolated, in each of the three patterns, hence, the term multiple isolations.

The main attraction of Sudoku puzzles is that its rules are simple and easy to follow, yet, being able to play the game successfully is quite difficult. This is why many teachers recommend the puzzle to their students in order to hone their skills in logical reasoning.

Sudoku Puzzles are usually ranked in terms of their difficulty, which mainly depends on how many numbers are given and how easy it is to logically determine subsequent numbers once a player starts completing the puzzle.

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The term number place to describe Sudoku Puzzles is a bit misleading since the choice of numbers as an instrument to play the game is not entirely unique. Most likely, they were chosen more for convenience. In reality, any set of distinct symbols may actually be employed to play Sudoku, without necessarily altering the rules. This can include letters, shapes, colors, etc.

Sudoku puzzles are usually available free in many publications. However, a number of these publications have made slight variations in their respective versions of the game. Penny Press and Knight Features Syndicate, for instance, both use letters instead of numbers when preparing the very entertaining and stimulating puzzle. ESPN also made use of Sudoku Puzzles when it published the puzzle game where it substituted the positions on a baseball field for the numbers 1–9.

For more valuable information on sudoku puzzles, please visit

<http://www.sudoku-puzzles.com>

### **Sudoku Puzzles Are Challenging – But They're Not Only For Math Majors**

**By Mary Murtha**

Sudoku puzzles have reached legendary popularity over the past few years. If you play regularly, then you have a pretty good idea what makes this puzzle game so special. If you have never played before there is only one question to ask. Where have you been? Open your eyes and grab a pencil, because it is time to join the rest of civilization.

If you are looking to find information on Sudoku puzzles, do not fear. The Internet is an amazing source of information on Sudoku. If you log on to your favorite web search engine, enter in the phrase "Sudoku puzzles," click the search button and let the World Wide Web do the rest. Within seconds you will find millions upon millions of sources about Sudoku. Just to warn you, you will be shocked at the extent of the following this logical and challenging puzzle game has.

When you first encounter the Sudoku puzzle, try not to think about mathematics. Sudoku does not require any math skills. It is an exercise in logic and logic alone. When you see the numbers try to remember that you will not have to add, multiply, divide, subtract or take the square root of anything. Sudoku is all about reasoning and it can give your brain a pretty good workout. The average solving time for Sudoku Puzzles is between 10 and 30 minutes. Of course, seasoned professionals and Sudoku prodigies can whiz through them in no time.

There are nine 9 x 9 grids inside a box. Some of the spaces in the sudoku puzzle are filled in with clues and numbers. The point of the game is to use those numbers and clues to figure out how to fill in the empty spaces. It sounds pretty easy and in some cases the puzzles can be created to be fairly simple. But as you become more experienced you can test your concentration with more difficult puzzles.

If you start playing Sudoku puzzles you will learn pretty quickly why it is considered one of the most addictive puzzle games in history. Do not take my word for it, pick up a book or log onto one of the millions of web sites dedicated to this great and innovative puzzle game.

To learn more about the Sudoku Game

[http://www.sudokudome.com/Articles/Sudoku\\_Game.php](http://www.sudokudome.com/Articles/Sudoku_Game.php)

and

Sudoku Puzzles

[http://www.sudokudome.com/Articles/Sudoku\\_Puzzles.php](http://www.sudokudome.com/Articles/Sudoku_Puzzles.php)

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