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What is Sudoku?

By Allison Thompson

This numerical puzzle game has launched itself on to the world scene over the last few months, but its origins seem to be either from the US where a version of it was designed by an American Puzzle Constructor by the name of Howard Garnes in the late 1970's. However this version of the game seems to have been around in Japan since the mid-1980's. Sudoku is a Japanese word meaning placement puzzle.

How you Play the Game

Sudoku is a very easy game to understand and the rules are very simple:

You are provided with a grid of 9 x 9 squares. Into these grids you have to place the numbers 1 to 9, but you must only list them once in each grid.

The game is played from a started grid, these means that some of the numbers you need to place are already provided and thereafter you must decide where the rest of the numbers should be placed in that grid.

It should be noted that there is only one valid solution to each puzzle.

The game can be played at varying levels of difficulty and the amount of numbers that are given to any player initially in the matrix may vary. However, some players may think that the more numbers they are given initially would make the puzzle easier to solve, but this is not always the case, as the placement of the numbers has an effect on the complexity of the puzzle.

Solving Sudoku Puzzles

The main key to have to help solve these puzzles is patience and your use of logic skills. It is not just a case of trial and error to get the right result. Some players are now constructing their own puzzle solving methods and techniques in order to get the result required, and many are now sharing these with other players online.

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To begin the puzzle you may start anywhere, but for many beginners it is easier to concentrate on the top three 3 x 3 grids. They look at the initial number and then start by using the "1". By looking at these small cells you are able to decide where you will possibly put the "1" if not already used but do not forget to stick with the rules of the game. You also have to take into consideration any 3 x 3 grids that are attached to the grid you are presently looking at.

This game is very clever, but it can sometimes make you feel as if you are going round in circles. But by practicing and honing your skills on different puzzles it may help you to understand certain techniques that you can use that work and those that don't. There are a great number of puzzles that can be solved and people are now starting to time themselves on them, similar in the way people use to time themselves on how fast they could complete a Rubiks cube.

<http://www.sudoku.free-suduko.com>

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Allison Thompson, now lives in Spain and has 15 years experience in the property field.

Sudoku - Mind Games At Their Best?

By Gabriel Adams

Sudoku is a logic based puzzle, somewhat similar to a crossword puzzle, except it uses digits instead of words. The name Sudoku is an abbreviation of a Japanese phrase which means "the digits must remain single". It is also sometimes called Number Place or Nampure.

The history of Sudoku

You can find predecessors of Sudoku as early as 1895, when an early version or variant of Sudoku appeared in a French newspaper.

The game now known as Sudoku was not invented until 1979, however, and was actually invented in Indianapolis, not Japan. Sudoku became widely popular in 1986, when the Japanese puzzle publisher Nikoli found and published the puzzle.

The game of Sudoku

Sudoku is based on a graph of squares, nine squares by nine squares. This graph is sub-divided into 9 3x3 squares or regions. The board looks much like 9 tic tac toe games all together.

The game is played by placing digits (1-9) in the squares on the game. Easy enough. The tough part is that each region (3x3 square, each diagonal row, each horizontal row, and each vertical row of squares

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must contain one of each of the nine digits, but may not have duplicates.

Each Sudoku game has some of the fields pre populated with numerals, called givens or clues. The difficulty is not necessarily related to how many fields are populated, though.

Difficulty

Sudoku is a very simple game in it's construction, but it can require some serious brain effort and skill to solve. Publishers often rank games according to difficulty, using 4–5 levels to organize games by their difficulty.

Accessibility

Sudoku puzzles are published in many newspapers and magazines around the world. They are also available in print form, and as computer games. Probably the easiest way to get them, though, is from a website that features free Sudoku puzzles. Many websites can also generate custom puzzles for free.

Visit

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

for free sudoku games and more.

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