

# Lesson 4

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## Single Instance Pencil Marks

Although this lesson seems simple, it's often overlooked as a useful tool.

As you use pencil marks, always be on the lookout for times when a pencil-marked number appears only once in a row, column, or box. If, in column C, the pencil mark 5 appears only in square C3, C3 must be 5. It's that simple!

## The Auto Pencil Marks Hint Mode

Sudoku OTW also helps you out here. If, when in Auto Pencil Mark mode, you tap AUTO again, you change into Auto Pencil Marks with Hint mode (the button changes to say "Hint"). In this mode, any pencil mark that appears only once in the row, column, or box is highlighted in red. Further, double-tapping on the square (when not in SOLO mode) will set the value of the square to the highlighted number.

## "This Makes It Too Easy"

Some people think the Hint mode makes the game too easy. As with all of the convenience features and modes of Sudoku OTW, the goal is to provide you with the tools you need to get to the next level as a Sudoku puzzle solver. If you find that the Hint mode makes the puzzle too easy. Our suggestion would be to either play without the hint mode, or play a more challenging puzzle level. The goal is to find a combination of puzzle level and tools that keep you playfully challenged but not frustrated.

The next lesson covers **Naked Pairs**.