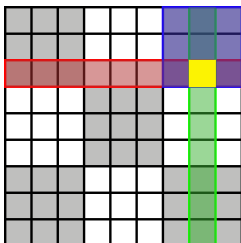


# Sudoku Rules

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One of the reasons Sudoku has gained such popularity is that the rules are simple. There is no math required. It is simply about placing numbers on a grid.

The Sudoku grid is comprised of 81 squares placed in 9 rows of 9 cells each. Each square (yellow shading) is part of a row (red shading), a column (green shading), and a 3 x 3 box (blue shading).



Each row, column, and box contains 9 squares, each of which has to have all the numbers 1-9. No duplicates are allowed.

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

Sudoku is played by starting with a grid with a portion of the numbers already present. These numbers provide the clues you need to find the rest of the numbers in the grid.

To work properly, Sudoku puzzles must have only one solution. Levels of difficulty are based on how many numbers you start with. The fewer you start with, the harder the puzzle. Sudoku OTW randomly generates puzzles by creating a solved puzzle, and then removing values until the desired number of empty squares are reached. Sudoku OTW also verifies that there is only one solution to the puzzle.

If you're interested in the origins of Sudoku, check out the Sudoku Origins section of this help. For assistance in learning Sudoku solving techniques, check out the lessons sections.