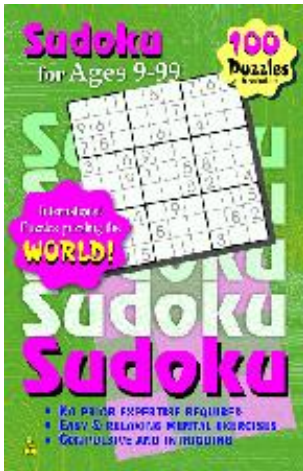




## Sudoku



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Sudoku is the latest Japanese game that's become a world craze.

Try solving one ...and get hooked!

- \* A total of 68 puzzles with solutions.
- \* Techniques and strategies to get you going.
- \* No practice of Maths needed.
- \* And on the top of all, a great time-pass and a unique way to enhance your logical skills and patience.

The word, Sudoku sometimes spelt as Su-Doku is a placement puzzle, also known as Number Place in the United States. In India too, it has become so popular today that one can find it in almost every newspaper and magazine, and now books of Sudoku are also in great demand in the markets worldwide. For instance, even a recent edition of the famous Salvation Army's magazine, The War Cry and Asia's one of the leading newspaper, The Times of India is organising Sudoku championships for its worldwide readers. Actually the word, Sudoku has originated from the Japanese language, Su meaning 'number' and doku, which means 'single'. Though majority of the people feel that it has a Japanese origin but the fact is that it had been invented by the great Swiss mathematician, Leonhard Euler, way back in around 1783. However, during 1980, the game became somewhat a craze in Japan.

Basically, it is a number-placement puzzle based on a square grid, typically 9 squares by 9, giving 81 squares in total. The puzzle is further divided (by bold gridlines) into 9 boxes or regions, each a square measuring 3 squares by 3.

The attraction of the puzzle is that the completion rules are simple, yet the line of reasoning required to reach the completion may be difficult. The true difficulty of the puzzle depends upon how easy it is to logically determine the subsequent numbers.

The strategy for solving a Sudoku puzzle can be broadly divided into three processes: Scanning or Hatching, Marking up and Analysing. One of the simplest solving tips of Sudoku is that the 3 - 3 region in the top-right corner must contain a 5. By hatching across and up from 5s located elsewhere in the grid, the solver can eliminate all of the empty cells in the top-left corner which should not contain a 5. Thus solving Sudoku puzzles demands no mathematical skills, nor does it require an aptitude for crosswords or chess. Instead, it requires an ability to think logically, a good deal of patience and a steely determination.

The present book on Sudoku contains a total of 68 puzzles for the readers to solve using all the above mentioned skills. As the readers go through the book, they will find it utterly engrossing and interesting.

Sudoku is very popular worldwide and is recommended even by schoolteachers as a good mental exercise for students to increase their logical reasoning and patience. In fact, though Sudoku, initially became popular in Japan in 1986 but has attained an international status and popularity only in the year, 2005.

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