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A quick introduction to Sudoku by Hellen Frey

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Sudoku is a cool numbers game but you do not need to be a genius to complete a game. A problem solving game requiring a bit of patience and a lot of trial and error, anyone with a deductive mind can play. Being such an easy game to master, children and adults all over the world already enjoy sudoku every day.

Sudoku Objective.

The goal of Sudoku will be to fill up all of the empty squares in the game with all the proper numbers. Here are the three simple rules for playing the standard (9x9 grid) sudoku game;

Each row in your grid must contain the numbers 1 to 9 in any order needed.

Each column needs to be filled in with the numbers 1 through 9.

Each of the numbers 1 to 9 must be contained within each cell of the 3x3 subsquares on your grid.

Sudoku puzzles will typically start with some or many of the squares already filled in (depending on difficulty). With sudoku puzzles, the more squares that are prefilled, the easier it is to complete the puzzle. Filling in the squares with the correct numbers will make the next choices easier to make, as there will be less possible numbers to choose from.

Sudoku Techniques.

The best thing to do when starting a Sudoku puzzle is to briefly examine the grid for rows and columns that have the least empty cells. For example, if you found the top right 9 square section (3x3 subsection) only had a 3 and a 9 missing, and the row that had a missing cell also had a 3 filled in at the bottom, you know now that you need to place the 9 in the row mentioned, and the 3 in the remaining empty square for that section, also providing a number for the next row/column.

As soon as the 7 is filled in, common sense makes it necessary that only a 5 may go underneath it as all numbers from 1 through 9 have to be displayed in the area. After that, a person can look to the 2 leftover open boxes from the right column - these need to include a 2 and a 4 as the column's digits must represent 1 through 9. Repeating the above process will allow you to properly determine which of these numbers go where.

Nevertheless, selections for boxes in many cases are not really that simple to deduce. An additional strategy is to "pencil in" choices and after that go through possible solutions that come up until finally a conflict can be found. Often these conflicts appear after several numbers are penciled in, and one can go back to the beginning and check out another choice until eventually something works.

Remember that with Sudoku, once you have worked out the correct numbers in the beginning, the rest of the numbers become easier to find.

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