

Killer Sudoku

The normal rules of Sudoku apply. In addition, the digits in each inner shape (marked by dots) must add up to the number in the top corner of that box. No digit is repeated in an inner shape.

Example

The image shows a 6x6 grid for a Killer Sudoku puzzle. The grid is divided into 3x3 blocks. Various cells are shaded blue. Sum boxes are indicated by numbers in the top-left corner of certain regions. The numbers in the sum boxes are: 20 (top-left 2x2), 7 (top-middle 2x2), 17 (top-right 2x2), 17 (middle-left 2x2), 9 (middle-middle 2x2), 15 (middle-right 2x2), 4 (bottom-right 2x2), 8 (bottom-left 2x2), 10 (bottom-middle 2x2), 6 (bottom-right 2x2), 33 (bottom-left 3x3), 9 (bottom-right 3x3), 22 (bottom-left 3x3), and 11 (bottom-middle 2x2).

Examine this section of a Killer Sudoku puzzle. Don't let the empty grid put you off. Look for sum boxes with very high and very low totals. They're likely to provide a limited choice of contents.

Remember that the numbers in each row, each column and each 3x3 block must always add up to 45. (1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9=45.)

The numbers in the top-left block add up to 52. Notice that one of the inner boxes extends beyond the block by one cell. The number in this, the tinted cell, must be 52-45. In other words, 7.

Use your Kakuro skills to identify sum boxes that have Unique Digit Answers. For example, the 17 above can only be filled with an 8 and a 9, or the 4 with a 1 and a 3.

Look for unusual sum box shapes. They often lead to a square that's easy to complete.

Finally, don't forget the basic rules of Sudoku. It's easy to get tangled up in sums when the standard rules will get you there.