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### **Dedication**

This book is dedicated to Ben, Chris, Josh, and Sam, who were students in Class 6 at Bishop Perrin School, Whitton, England. Their enthusiasm for Sudoku puzzles inspired me to put together this book. *James E. Riley*

## About Sudoku

*Sudoku* is a name for a type of number-placing puzzle. Solving a Sudoku puzzle requires logic and will improve your brain power and reasoning skills. These skills come in handy for all problem solving you might be asked to do.

Sudoku puzzles started in Japan. The Japanese language does not lend itself to crossword puzzles because the language uses complex characters to form words rather than an alphabet. Sudoku puzzles were created to challenge Japanese readers as crosswords challenge those with alphabet languages.

*Su* means “number” in Japanese. *Doku* means “bachelor” or “single.” *Sudoku* can be translated loosely as “single number.”

Now Sudoku puzzles are creating a worldwide phenomenon. Hundreds of newspapers around the world now publish daily Sudoku puzzles. Countless websites are devoted to all things Sudoku. Puzzle fans all over the world are finding themselves becoming addicted to Sudoku—spending hours trying to fill in those last few numbers!

The rules are easy to learn and some puzzles are very easy. However, some are extremely difficult. This book contains puzzles at several difficulty levels. When solving a puzzle, always use a pencil with a good eraser.

This book includes solutions in the back. Do not use them for hints if you become stuck. It is better to set the puzzle aside for awhile and return to it later with a fresh mind. When you have solved the puzzle correctly, the solution is obvious because all the number-placement rules are evident.

## The Puzzle

A Sudoku puzzle contains nine 3x3 squares inside a 9x9 square and looks like this:

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

The eighty-one small squares are called *cells*. The 3x3 squares are called, sensibly enough, *squares*. A horizontal line of nine cells is called a *row*. A vertical line of nine cells is called a *column*. The entire 9x9 square is called the *puzzle*.

The rules of the game are simple. Namely, place the digits 1 through 9 in the cells so that each digit occurs once and only once in each square, row, and column. Following is the solution for the above puzzle:

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

## Solving Strategies

Sudoku puzzles are solved by using logical thought. You don't need a knowledge of mathematics, and guessing will not help. In fact, guessing can hinder finding the solution. This section provides you with strategies for solving Sudoku puzzles.

You're going to solve the following Sudoku puzzle using various Sudoku strategies. As you work through the strategies, you will replace the shaded letters in each cell with the correct numbers.

S				G	5	9	3	2
3	5		4	2		V	W	8
R	8	A				U	B	H
5		8			4	7	P	1
1	4			7		Q	8	6
2	C	3	8	I	T	5	J	9
D		F				E	1	O
6				9	1	K	7	5
7	3	1	6			L	M	N

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

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

## Level 6 Dual Puzzles

Level 6 puzzles are dual puzzles. Each puzzle has one overlapping square of nine cells.

Your challenge is to solve each puzzle. The digits in the nine cells of the overlapping square will be the same for each puzzle. As you solve one puzzle and fill in the cells in the overlapping square, you will be gaining more clues for the other puzzle.

The rules of Sudoku still apply for each separate puzzle.

Good luck and good puzzling!

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

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