How to Play

Fill the 9×9 grid so that every **row**, every **column**, and each of the nine **3×3 boxes** contains the digits 1 through 9 exactly once.

The printed numbers are your clues — they never change. Every puzzle in this book has **exactly one solution**.

These are hard puzzles. Each has only a handful of clues, and simple scanning will not finish any of them. Pencil small candidate numbers into the empty cells, and expect to use techniques such as naked and hidden pairs, pointing pairs, and X-Wing.

Tip: work in pencil, take breaks, and look at the whole grid again when you get stuck. Full solutions are in the back.

Hard · No. 1

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

Hard · No. 2

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

Hard · No. 3

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

Hard · No. 4

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

Solutions 13–24

No. 13

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

No. 14

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

No. 15

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

No. 16

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

No. 17

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

No. 18

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

No. 19

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

No. 20

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

No. 21

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

No. 22

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

No. 23

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

No. 24

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