How to Play Sudoku: Rules for Kids

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sudoku has just three rules. Learn them here, see one solved step, then try two puzzles yourself.

Rule 1: Rows

1	2	3	4
3	4	1	2
2	1	4	3
4	3	2	1

Each row (across) has 1, 2, 3 and 4 once.

Rule 2: Columns

1	2	3	4
3	4	1	2
2	1	4	3
4	3	2	1

Each column (up and down) has 1, 2, 3 and 4 once.

Rule 3: Boxes

1	2	3	4
3	4	1	2
2	1	4	3
4	3	2	1

Each thick-lined box has 1, 2, 3 and 4 once.

Let's solve one square together

1	?	3	
	4		
			3
4	3		

1. Find the square with the ?. Its row (yellow) already has 1 and 3.
2. Its column (blue) already has 4 and 3.
3. So 1, 3 and 4 are taken. The only number left is 2!
4. Write 2 in the square. Then look for the next square where only one number fits.

Your turn!

Tip: start with a row, column or box that has only one empty square.

Puzzle A

2	3		
4	1	2	
3	4		2
1		3	4

Puzzle B

	1		
	3	2	1
3		1	
1	2		4

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Answer Key

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Puzzle A

2	3	4	1
4	1	2	3
3	4	1	2
1	2	3	4

Puzzle B

2	1	4	3
4	3	2	1
3	4	1	2
1	2	3	4