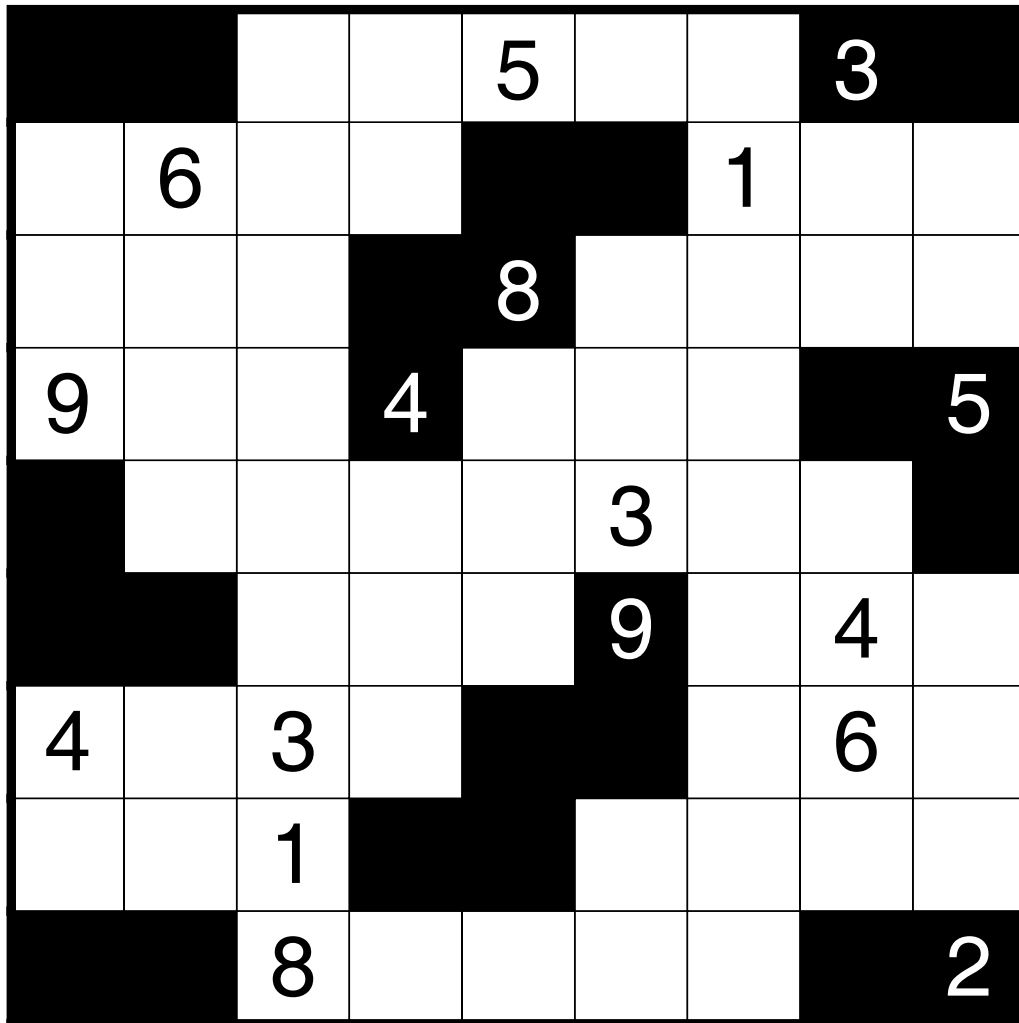


STR8TS

Samples Document



Easy

by
Andrew Stuart
Jeff Widderich

About Str8ts

The concept of Str8ts was invented by the master puzzle designer Jeff Widderich in 2008. Jeff lives in British Columbia, Canada, and is a founder of Syndicated Puzzles Inc. Jeff invited Andrew Stuart to turn the concept into a working puzzle - ensuring each puzzle has a unique solution solvable with logical strategies. Andrew lives in the Norfolk in the United Kingdom and has published Sudoku and many variants in major newspapers around the world. Str8ts is the latest and most innovative puzzle to come out since Sudoku while competing with Sudoku for depth and style of play.

The Rules

- Rows and columns are divided into compartments of white squares.
- Squares in compartments need to be filled in with single numbers 1 to 9.
- These must complete a 'straight'. A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps and in any order.

For example

[7]-[6]-[4]-[5] is a 'straight' but [1]-[3]-[8]-[7] is not

- No single number can repeat in any row or column.
- Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight.

Take the blank cell 'X' in this small example - we have a set of four cells horizontally with 2, 4 and 5. To ensure there are no gaps between the numbers 3 can be placed there. 1, 6 or any other number would leave a gap between 2 and 4.

Cell Z is a very easy cell. To go with 2 above it the only valid numbers are 1 and 3 - but 3 is already present in the row - so 1 it is.

Don't expect all cases in all puzzles to be this simple!

	5	4	6
2	4	5	X
Z	6	3	4

Ordering

To order these puzzles contact Jeff Widderich on +1 250 885 8344 or email sales@syndicatedpuzzles.com

For technical, strategy or production related questions, please email Andrew Stuart on help@syndicatedpuzzles.com

Grades are **easy, moderate, tough** and **diabolical**

Our main web site is

<http://www.syndicatedpuzzles.com>

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Example walk-through

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

Pick small compartments which have several numbers in them. The 3/1 at the top implies a 2 since 2 is the gap between 3 and 1. Likewise 7/8/9 in the first column.

In the center is a 4 in a two-cell compartment. Its complement can be 3 or 5 but there is a 5 in the black cell in the center row, so the answer is 3.

Lastly, the right-most column has a 7 which could lead to a combination from 5/6/7 to 7/8/9. To match with the horizontal two-cell compartment that has the 6 we need 5 or 7. 5 is the only possibility.

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

The remainder of that section falls into place, the order of which I've indicated with arrows.

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

Having made a start we can add 6 to the right-most column since that's the gap between 5 and 7.

We can add 2 into the central horizontal compartment to make a straight of 2/1/3.

On the left hand side 6 is implied for the two-cell compartment that has 7 since 8 is used up vertically in the second column.

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

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

Next, the 7 can be filled in the small cluster on the right. At this point a little thought is required. Take the four-cell compartment in the second-to-last column that ends in 7 and 6. The possibilities range from 4/5/6/7 to 6/7/8/9. However the 5 in that column removes the lower possibilities, so we have to fit 8 and 9 in the remaining cells. 8 is used but in the top row so 9 must start the compartment there.

The placement of 5 might seem a little strange. But consider what has been eliminated on the row and column. 1/3/4/6/7/9 have been used up leaving 2/5/8. One of these numbers must compliment the cell to the left to make a two-cell straight. Because 7 and 9 have been used up in the row 8 is what we call a 'stranded digit'. It can't be part of a straight in the row so it can be removed. What about the 2? A 2 would require a 1 or 3 in the vertical straight but these are also used up, so 5 it is.

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

This gives us 1 in the first column, near the top since 4 is used in the third row. With very few possibles left the 3 can be placed in the top row and this gives us the 5 as well.

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

Now we can fill in the 8.

Where the 7 has been placed is another process of elimination. Looking at what's been used up we find 2 and 7 are possible, but vertically, the straight contains a 5, so 2 is too far away from 5 to be used, since the straight contains 3 cells.

With the 7 in place the 2 on the bottom row comes into place. We can see that only 2 and 9 remain as possibles, but 9 is ruled out because of the bottom row. The straight is a long one - eight digits, but it has a 1 as a clue. So 9 is off the end of the set of possibilities. 2 is inserted.

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

We finish the top left section placing 2, 3 and 4 and we complete the top row.

Now, to get to get to the rest of the board we need to look at the remaining cells carefully. Usually its simply a question of finding a congested cell with many numbers in the row and columns. The 7 can be placed with certainty since its the only remaining number.

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

Now we can attack the section on the lower right. The 1 clue in the last column is very useful as it means the bottom right corner can only be a 2 or a 3. But the 2 has been placed in the row. So 3 goes in. This gives us the 2 in the final column.

Because so many numbers have been used we can place the 4.

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

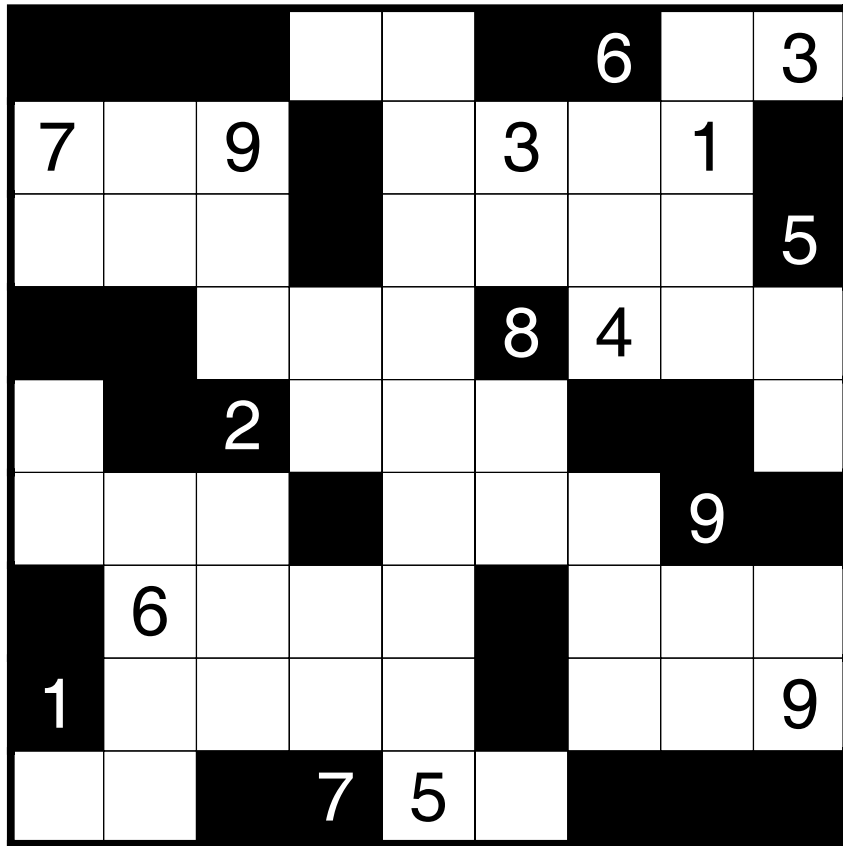
The two-cell straight starting with 8 in the 7th row can be completed with 9, having placed the 7. The arrow shows this.

We have a 1 to place in the 3d column.

That 7 placement also allows us to place the 9 above it in that column, since 7/9 were the only chances.

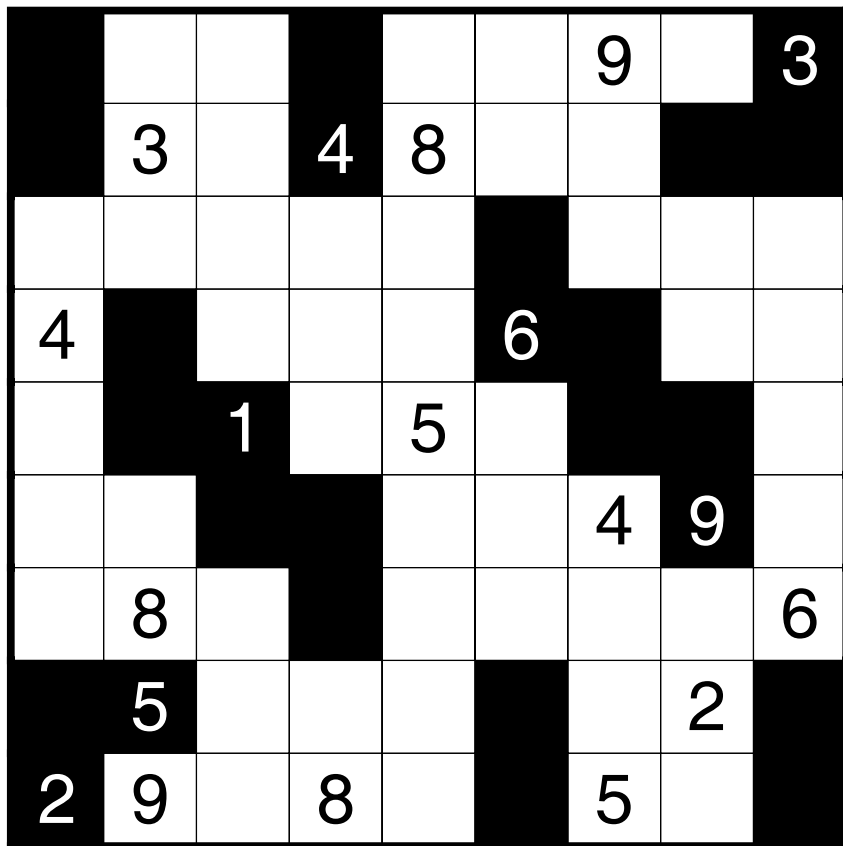
We are snow-balling to a conclusion now and I leave it to the reader to fill in the remaining cells.

1.



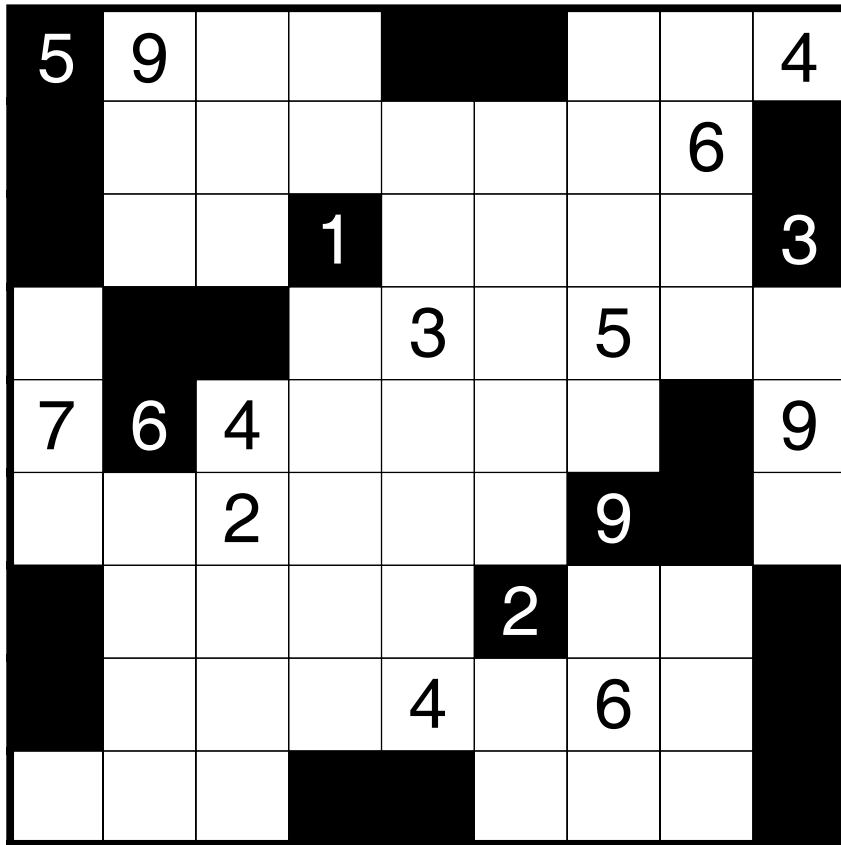
Easy

2.



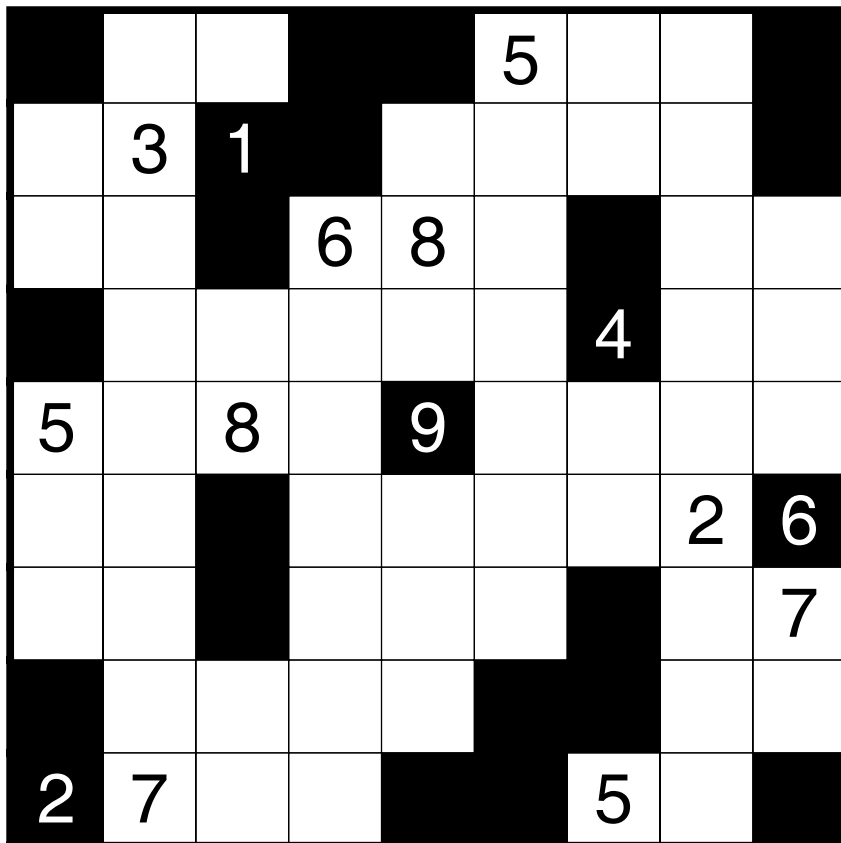
Easy

3.



Moderate

4.



Moderate

5.

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

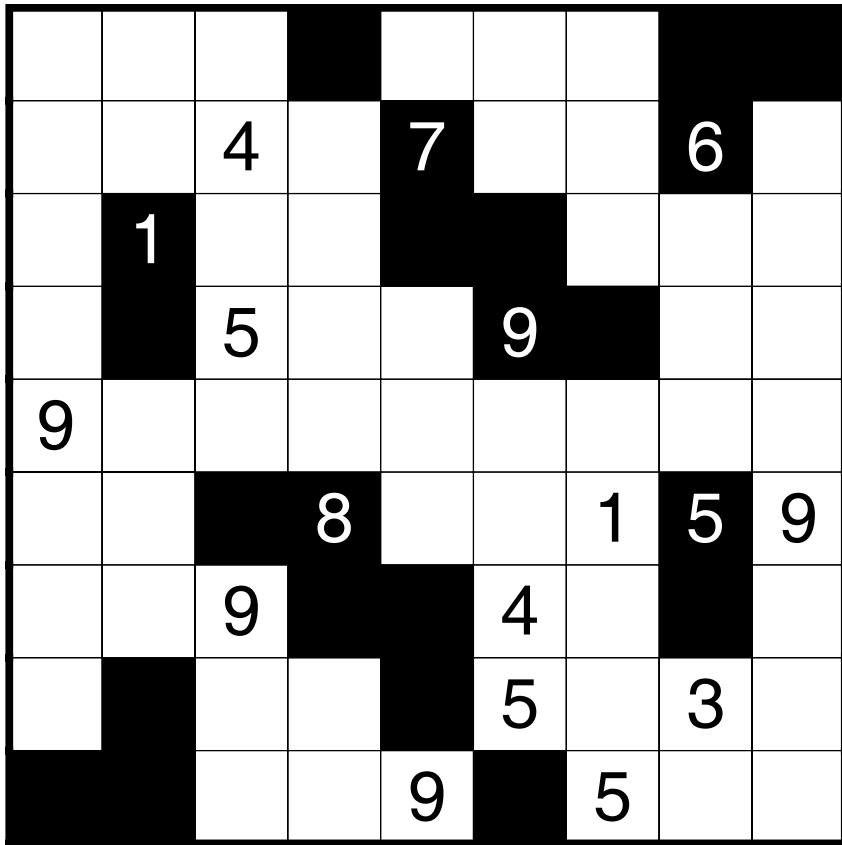
Tough

6.

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

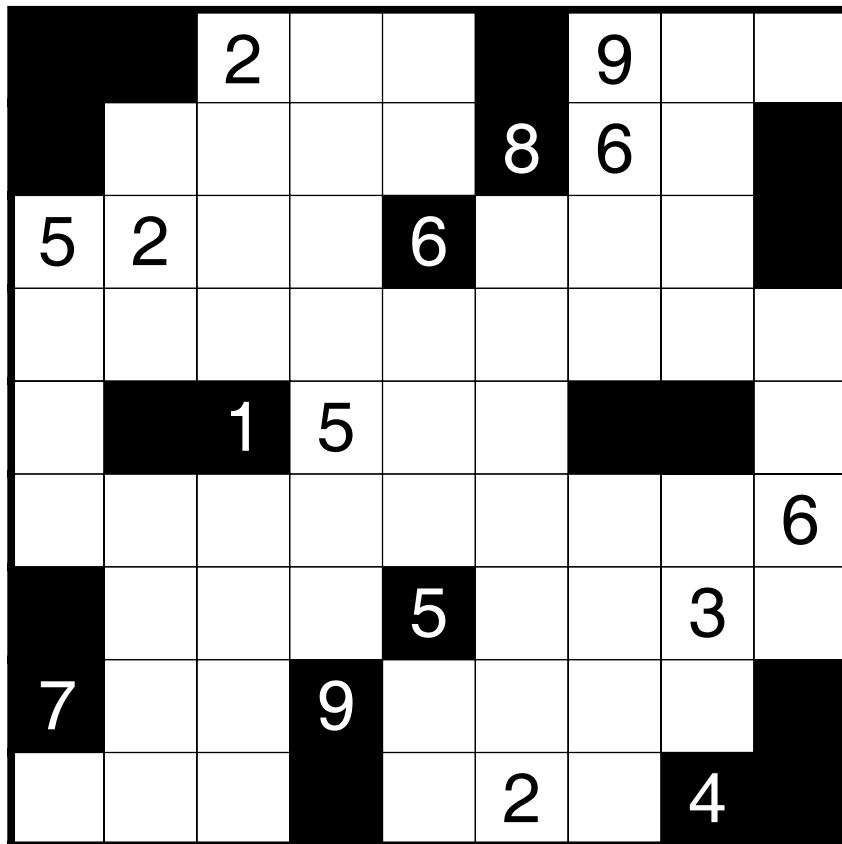
Tough

7.



Diabolical

8.



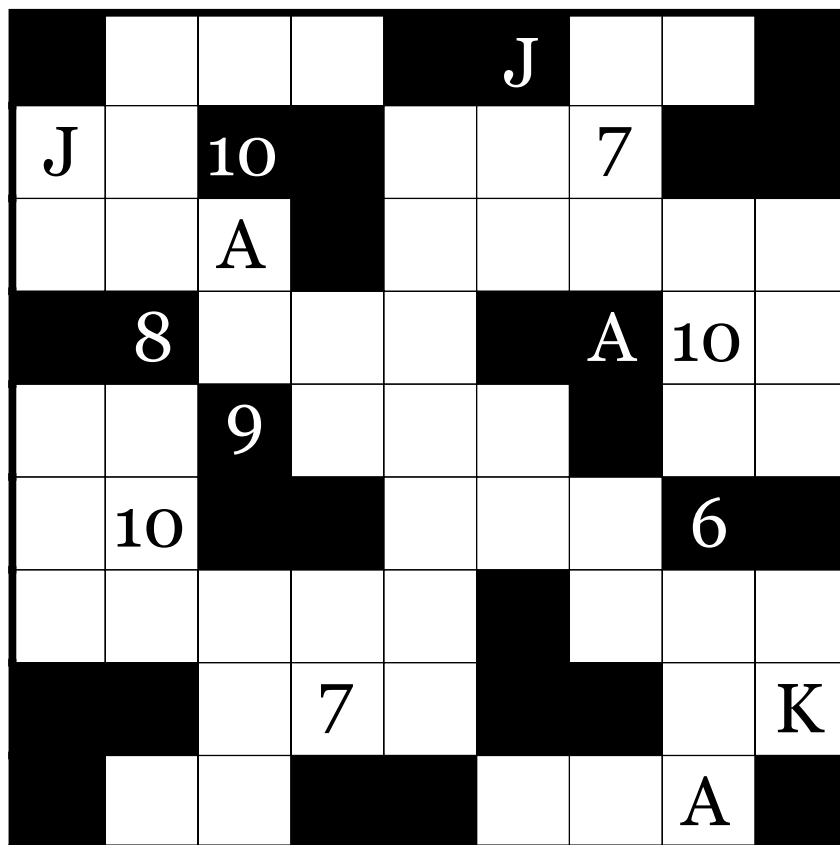
Diabolical

STR8TS

Playing Card versions

In this version of Str8ts, the numbers 1 to 9 have been replaced with numbers and letters of a "straight" in playing cards, that is 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, J, Q, K and A (standing for Jack, Queen, King and Ace). So Ace is high - it is the equivalent of number 9. The same rules and strategies apply.

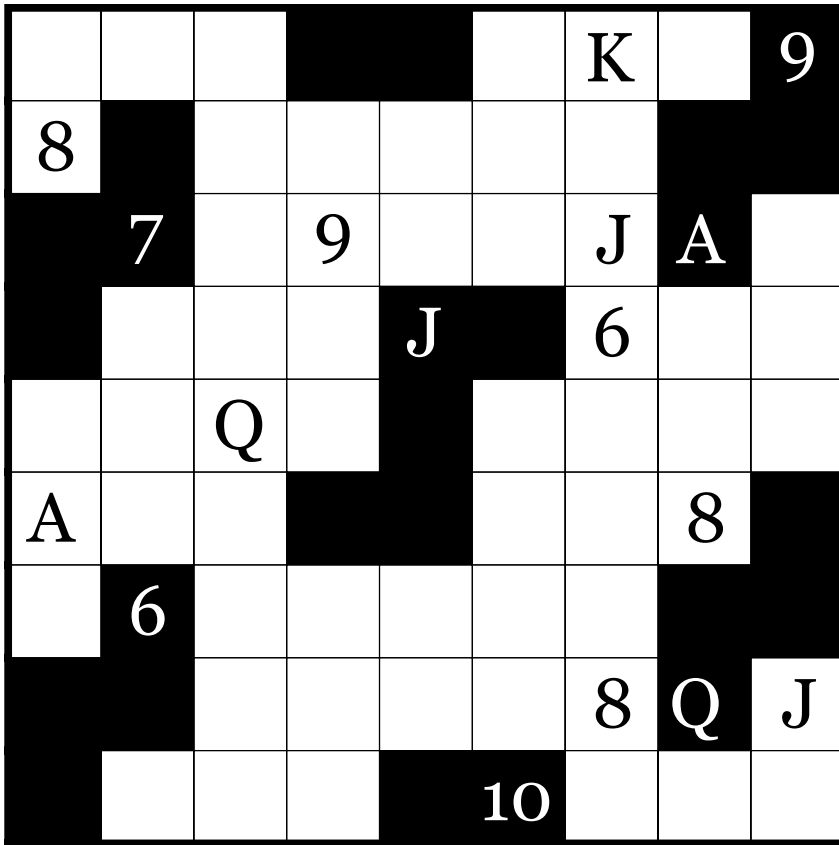
9.



Easy

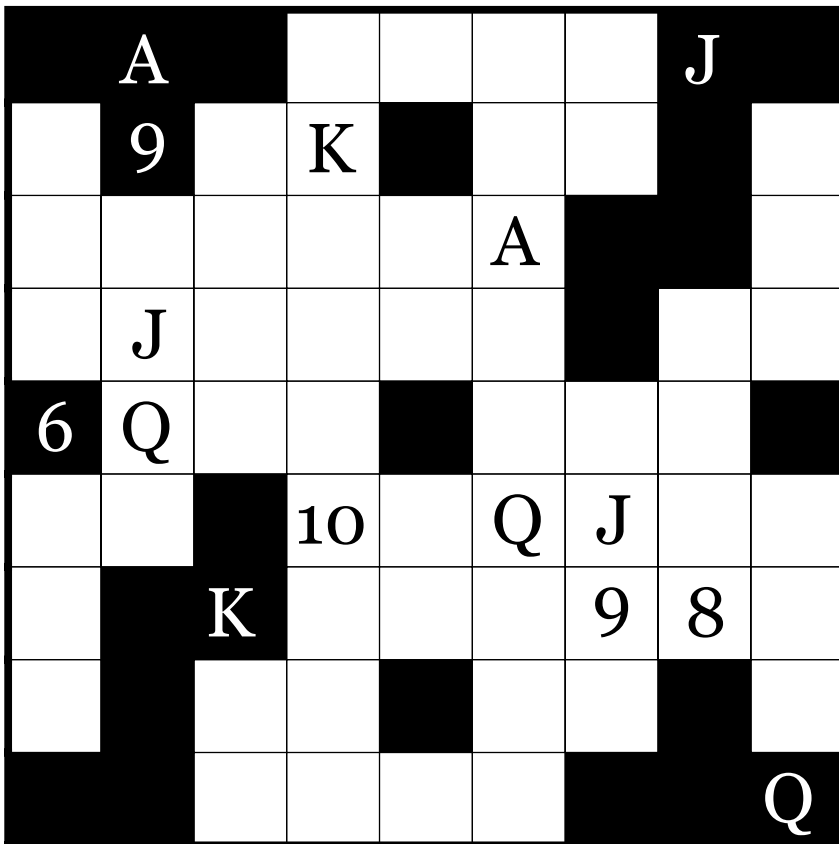
10.

Moderate



11.

Tough



Newspaper Version: Tall

STR8TS

No 365. Easy

Rows and columns are divided into compartments of white squares. Squares in compartments need to be filled in with single numbers. These must complete a 'straight'. A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order. No single number can repeat in any row or column. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight.

Yesterday's solution
Diabolical

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

You can find hints and tips at
www.str8ts.com

The solution will be published here tomorrow.

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

Newspaper Version: Wide

Str8ts

No 365. Easy

Yesterday's solution, Diabolical

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

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

Rows and columns are divided into compartments of white squares. Squares in compartments need to be filled in with single numbers. These must complete a 'straight'. A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order. No single number can repeat in any row or column. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight.

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Front Page

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

1.

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

Easy

2.

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

Easy

3.

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

Moderate

4.

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

Moderate

5.

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

Tough

6.

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

Tough

7.

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

Diabolical

8.

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

Diabolical

Playing Card versions.

9.

	A	Q	K		J	8	7	
J	Q	10		8	9	7		
Q	K	A		7	10	6	9	8
	8	K	J	Q		A	10	9
10	J	9	Q	K	A		8	7
9	10			J	K	Q	6	
8	9	7	6	10		J	K	Q
		8	7	9			Q	K
	7	6			Q	K	A	

Easy

10.

7	8	6			Q	K	J	9
8		9	10	K	J	Q		
	7	10	9	Q	K	J	A	6
	K	A	Q	J		6	7	8
K	A	Q	J		8	9	6	7
A	Q	K			6	7	8	
Q	6	J	8	9	7	10		
		7	6	10	9	8	Q	J
	9	8	7		10	A	K	Q

Moderate

11.

	A		7	9	8	6	J	
J	9	Q	K		6	7		8
9	10	J	Q	K	A			6
10	J	9	A	Q	K		6	7
6	Q	10	J		7	8	9	
A	K		10	8	Q	J	7	9
Q		K	6	7	J	9	8	10
K		7	8		9	10		J
		8	9	J	10			Q

Tough