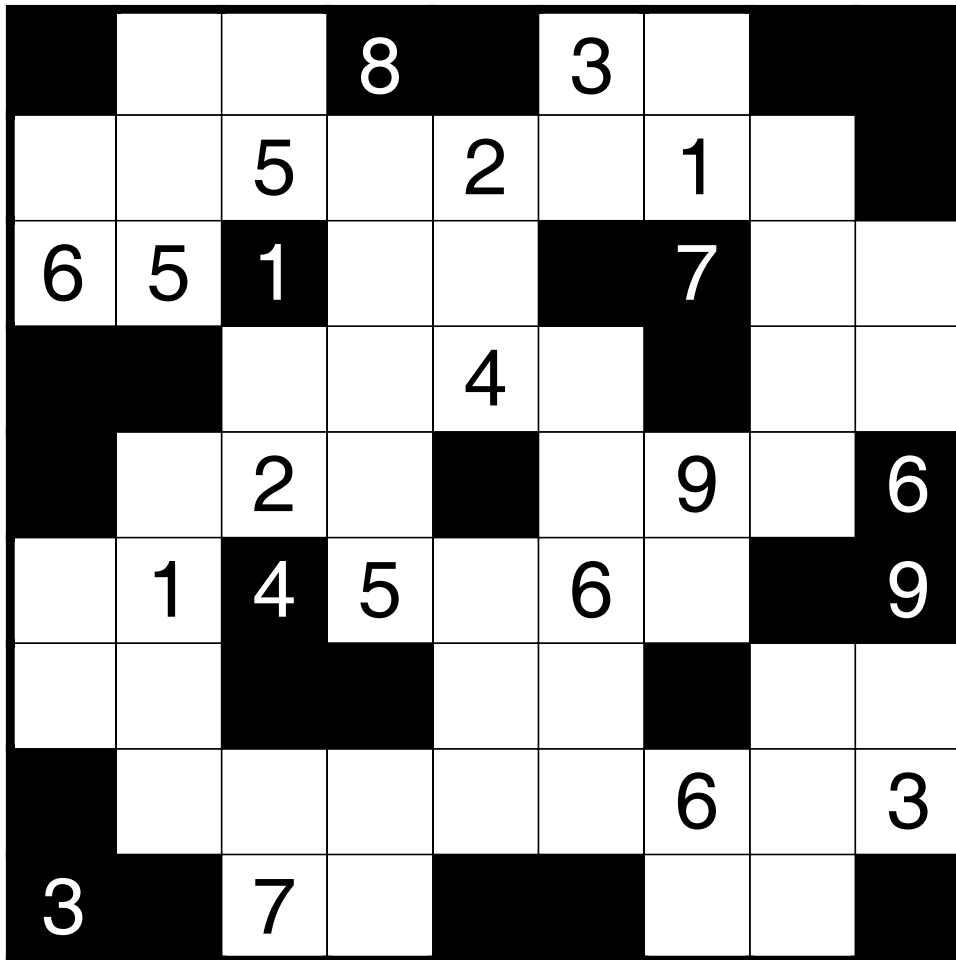


STR8TS

Samples Document



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Easy

by
Andrew Stuart
Jeff Widderich

About Str8ts

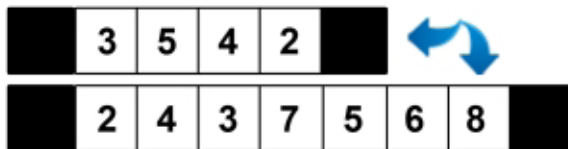
The concept of Str8ts was invented by the master puzzle designer Jeff Widderich in 2008. Jeff lives in British Columbia, Canada, and is a co-founder of Syndicated Puzzles Inc. Jeff invited Andrew Stuart to turn the concept into a working puzzle - ensuring each puzzle has a unique solution solvable with 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.



- Your inserted numbers must complete a straight.



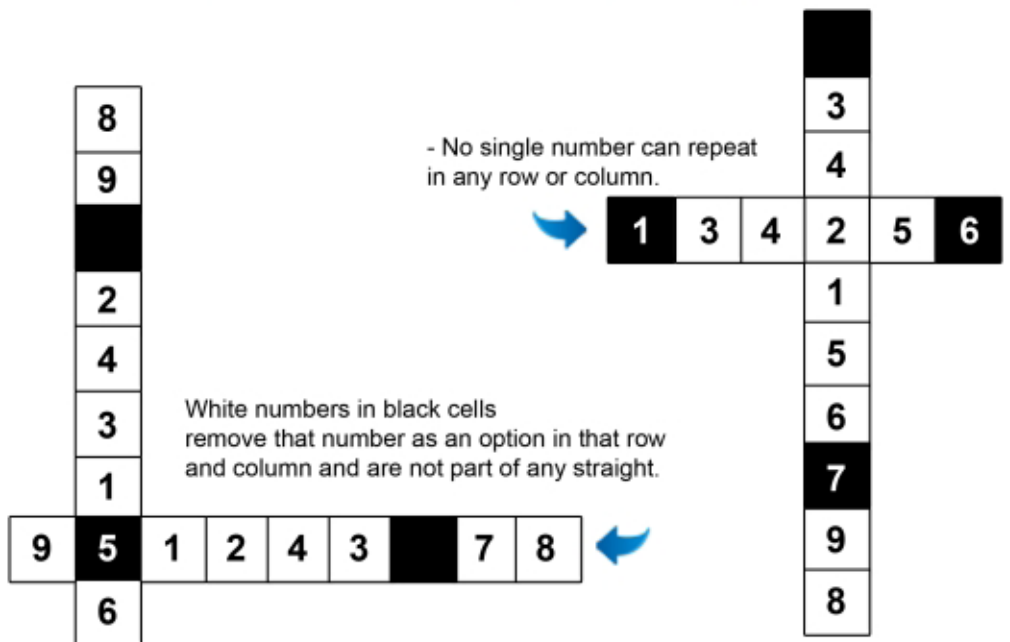
- A completed straight is a set of numbers displaying no numerical gaps and they can be in any order.



- No single number can repeat in any row or column.

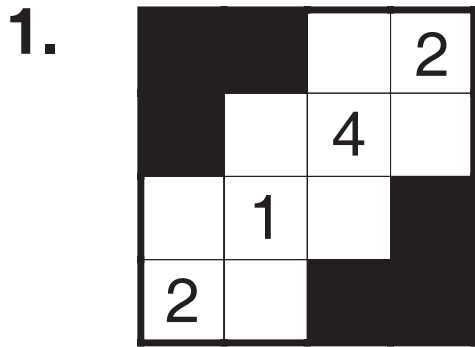


White numbers in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column and are not part of any straight.

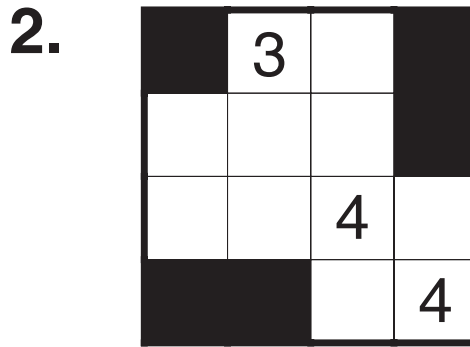


STR8TS - Starter Puzzles - Variety in Size

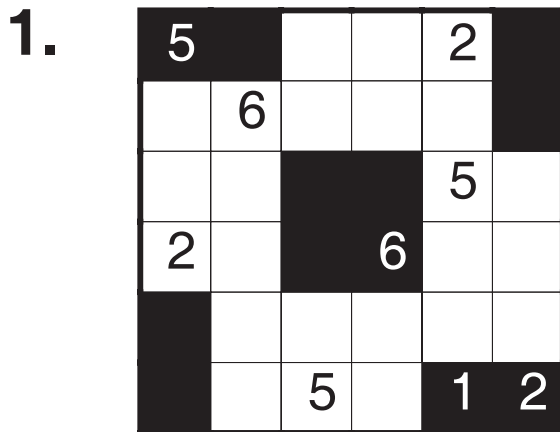
Str8ts is normally 9 by 9 but can come in many sizes and these little ones are a great way to introduce the puzzle. All 4 by 4s are very easy and introduce the concept of a straight. 6 by 6 versions can be graded to produce a range from easy to relatively hard. There is a walk-through for a 6x6 later in the document.



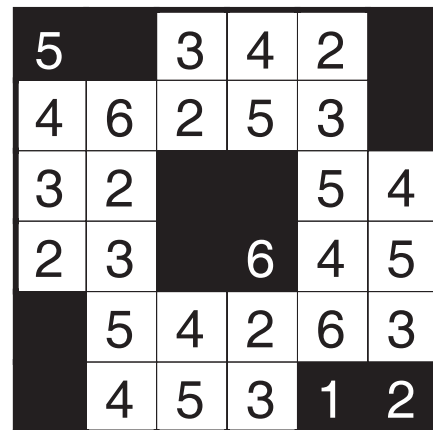
Starter Easy 4x4



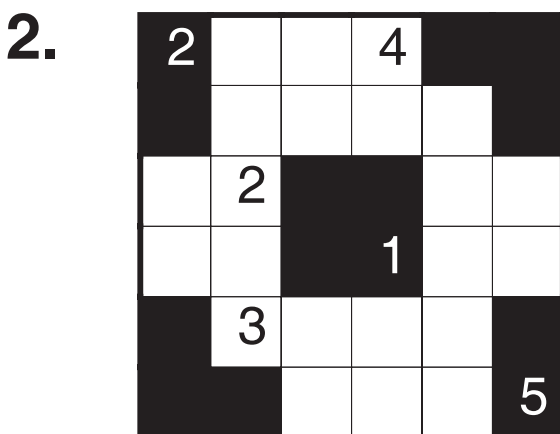
Starter Easy 4x4



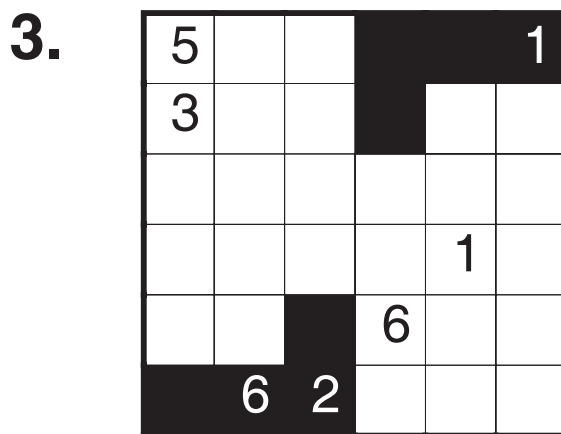
Easy 6x6



Solution to Easy 6x6



Tough 6x6

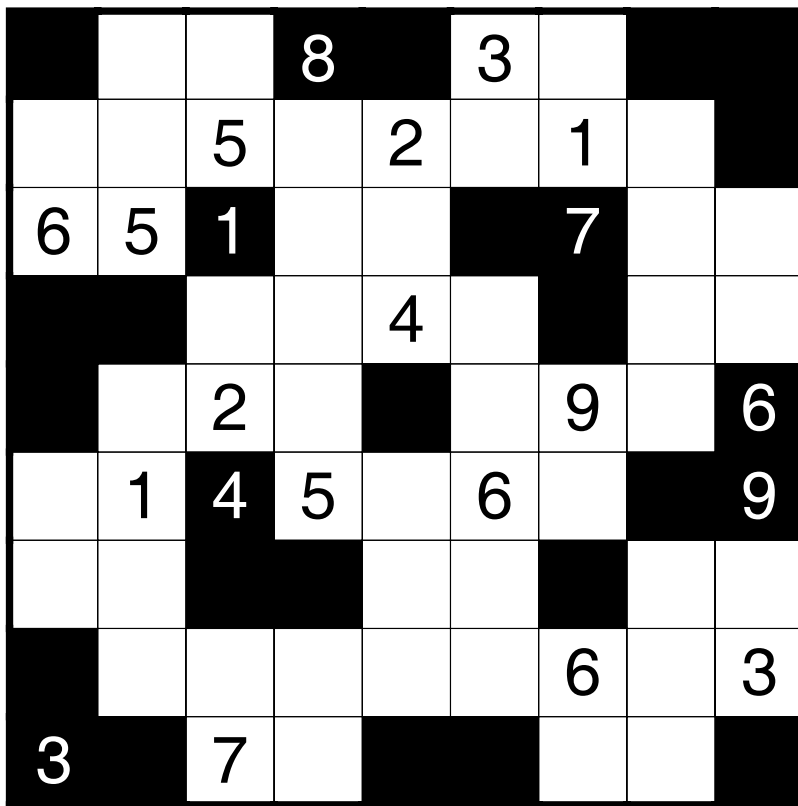


Diabolical 6x6

Str8ts - Standard 9x9 'easy' grade

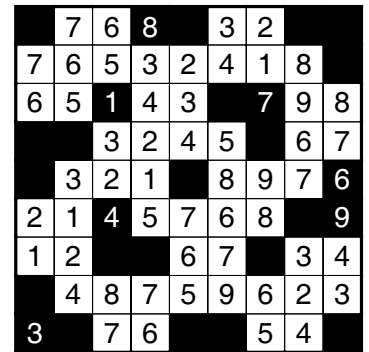
These are the standard 9x9 puzzles. As these might be the first ones you'll be trying, the solutions for the easy ones have been placed next to the puzzle to help understand the rules.

1.

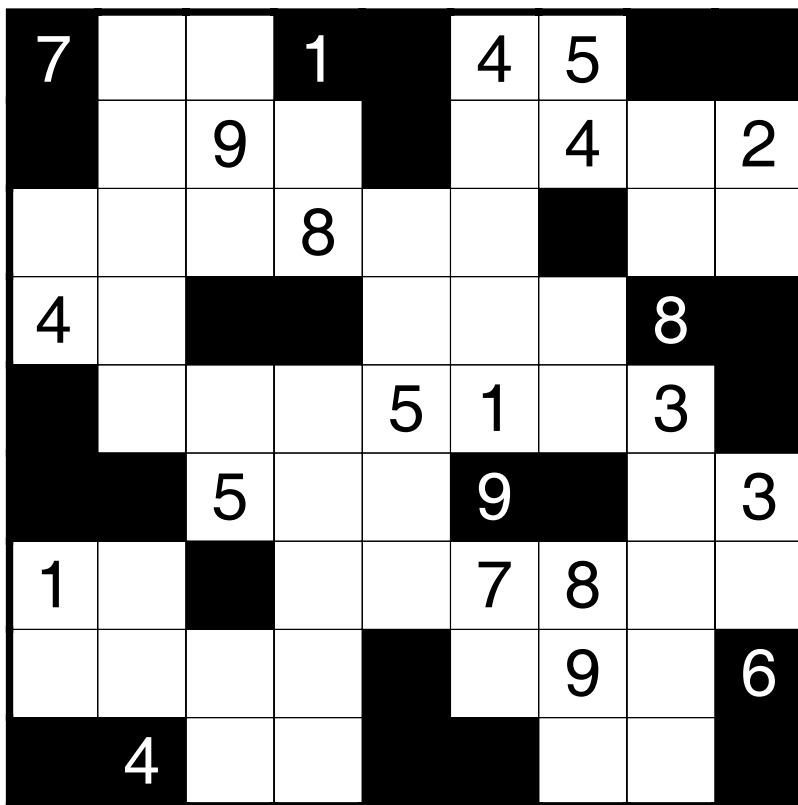


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Easy

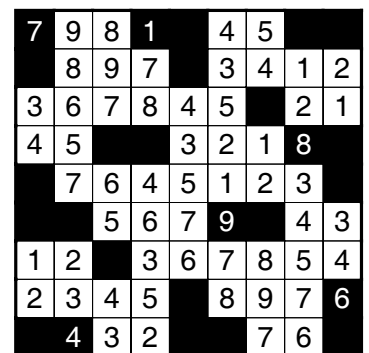


2.



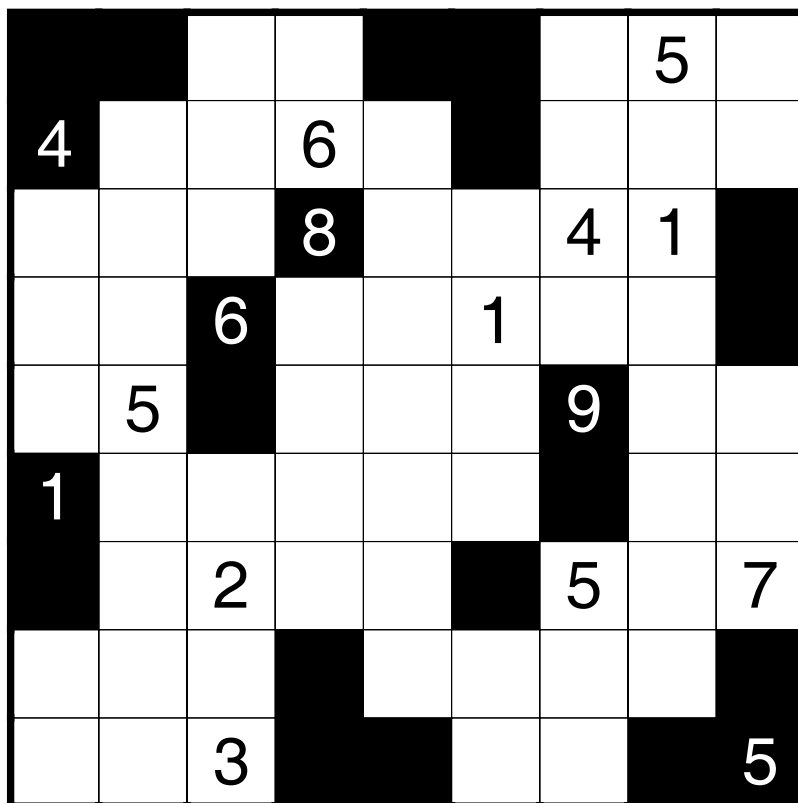
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Easy



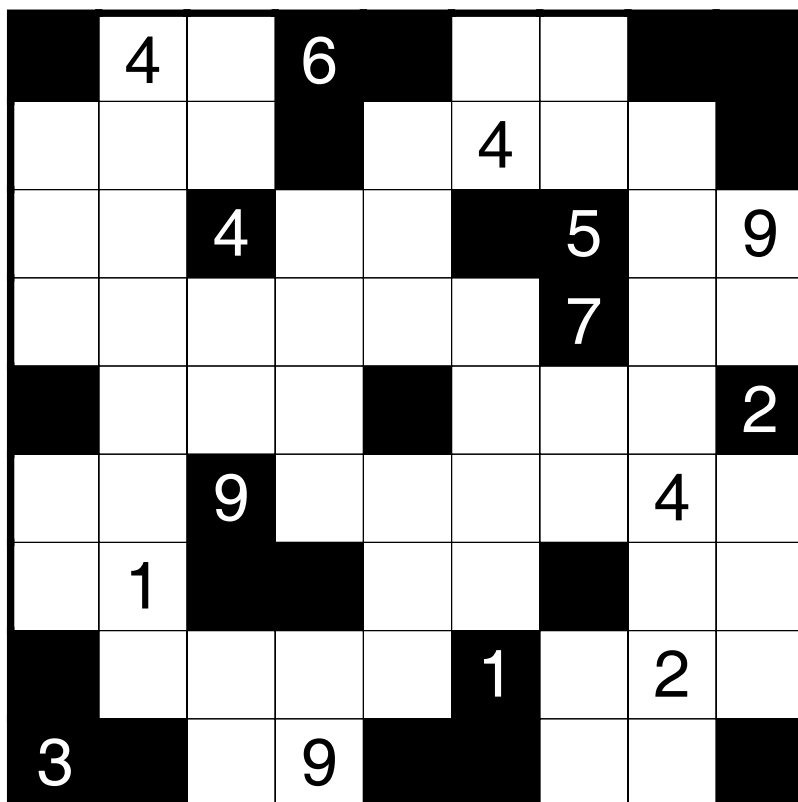
Str8ts - Standard 9x9 'moderate' grade

3.



Moderate

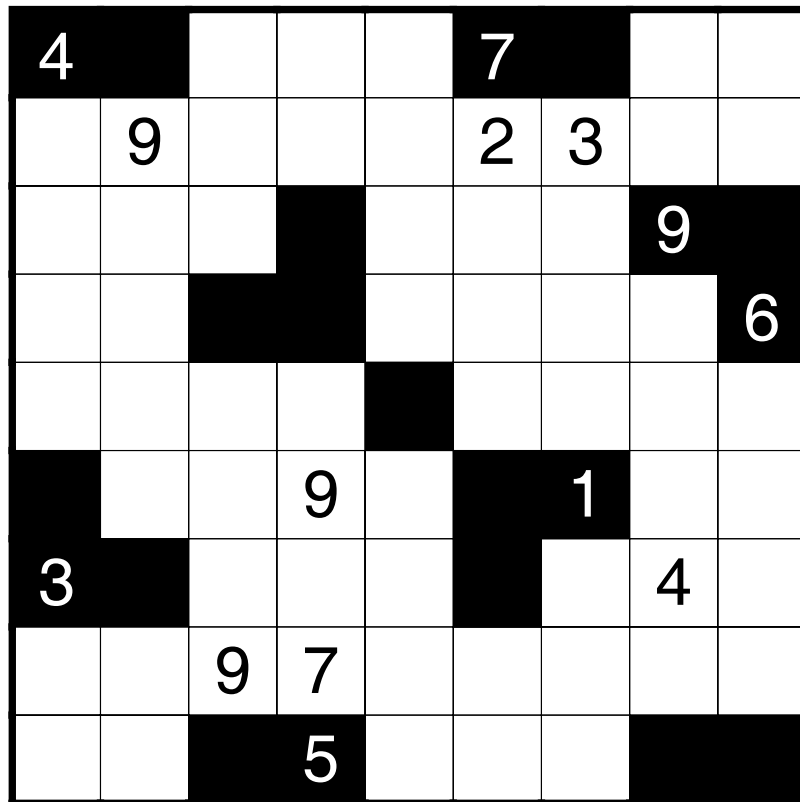
4.



Moderate

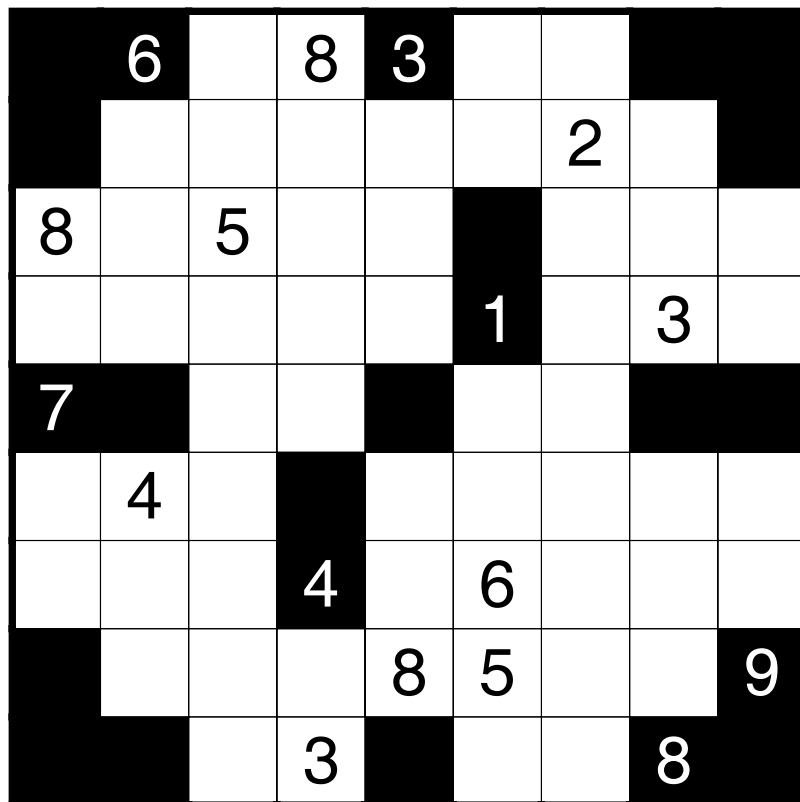
Str8ts - Standard 9x9 'tough' grade

5.



Tough

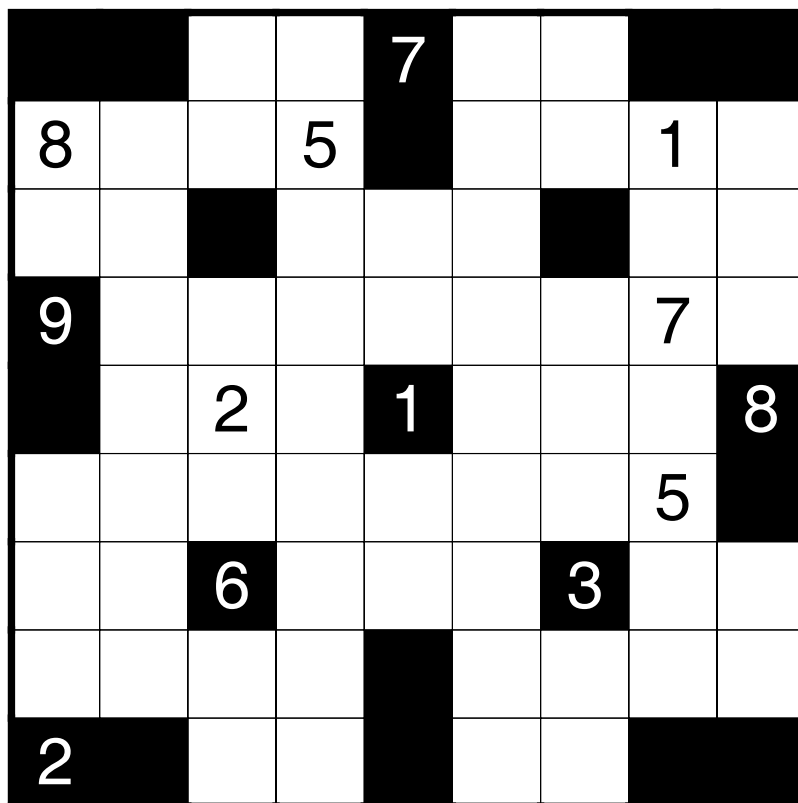
6.



Tough

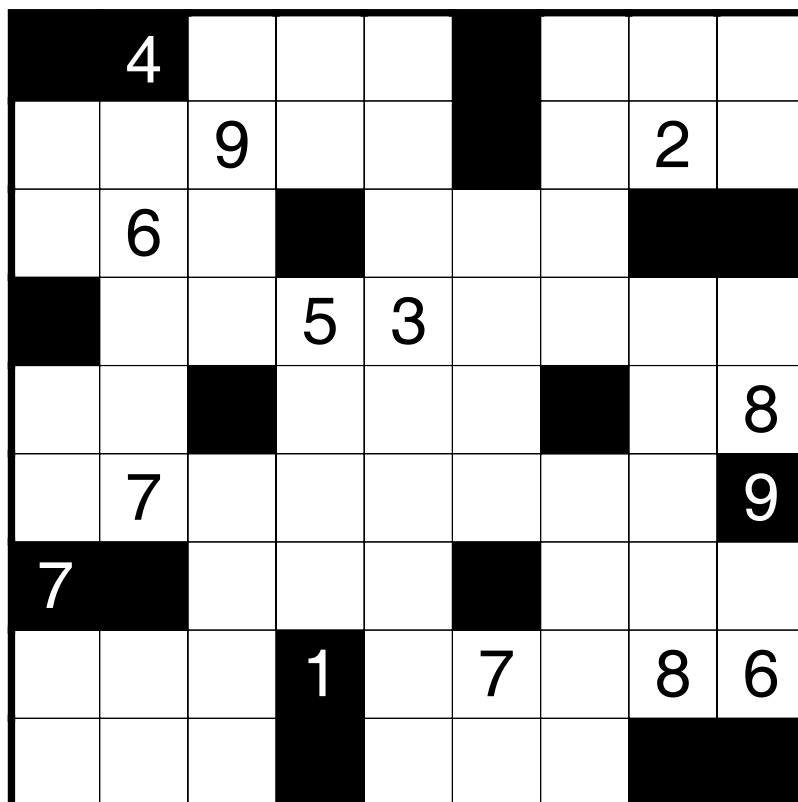
Str8ts - Standard 9x9 'diabolical' grade

7.



Diabolical

8.



Diabolical

STR8TS - 'Extremes'

Like Sudoku it is possible to produce off the chart 'extremes'. We have a large following for our Weekly Extreme challenge. Most of the puzzles are hand designed like these two:

9.

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

Extreme

10.

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

Extreme

Str8ts - the Playing Card version

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.

1.

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

Moderate

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

2.

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

Moderate

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

Example walk-through

	1	2	3	4	5	6
A						
B		4				
C						
D			6	2		
E	5			1	3	
F			3			2

This example puzzle looks tough because of the few number of clues, but it works out logically. Always start with 1s and 9s (or 6s in these smaller puzzles). They are the ends on 'straights'. Because of the 2 in F6 we can work out where [1,2,3] goes: 2 is not possible in F4 so it's 3.



	1	2	3	4	5	6
A						
B		4				
C						
D			6	2		
E	5	2	4	1	3	
F			5	3		2

Now we can get row E. To make a 'straight' with 1 and 3 we must fit a 2. Since its four cells long and starts with a 1, there must also be a 4. The clue 4 in B2 allows us to fit this straight. Vertically we can deduce 5 in F3 because 4 fits with 5. 3 is excluded by the 3 in F6.



	1	2	3	4	5	6
A						
B		4				
C						
D	4	5	6	2		
E	5	2	4	1	3	
F		6	5	3	4	2

Looking at row D the 2 must mean that compartment can only go up to 4. So the compartment in D1/D2 must be 4 or 5 or 6. 6 is a black cell clue so we can fit 4/5 in just one way.



	1	2	3	4	5	6
A						
B		4				
C	3	1	2			
D	4	5	6	2		
E	5	2	4	1	3	
F		6	5	3	4	2

Moving up the board, the 3 in C1 is an easy one – the 5 clue in E1 gives us that. 4 cannot be placed in that compartment because of the existing solutions. So it must be a 1/2/3 compartment. The current arrangement of 2s gives us the solution.



	1	2	3	4	5	6
A		3				
B		4				
C	3	1	2		5	4
D	4	5	6	2	1	3
E	5	2	4	1	3	
F		6	5	3	4	2

Finally we can complete column 2, but there's a difficult blank area still to fill. Cell D5 is interesting. The compartment could be either 1/2/3 or 2/3/4, but the 3/4 in E5/E6 means it must be 2/1/3. That gives us 4 in C6 and 5 in C5.

The final six cells don't quite fall into place at a glance, but there is only one combination that's valid.



	3	1	4	2	
	4	3	5	6	
3	1	2		5	4
4	5	6	2	1	3
5	2	4	1	3	
	6	5	3	4	2

There are a number of great tricks you can be on the lookout for. One of these is called "Stranded Digit" and is easily understood.

4			6	4	5	3
				7	8	
5		4		4	6	
		7	8	9	7	8
		8			3	6
		7	9	7		
						9

Take a peek at this fragment. Looking at the second row starting with the black clue 5 it cuts through a set of possible numbers for the two-cell on that row. Because the 5 is not possible (the clue) The 4's have become isolated from the 6,7,8 and 9s. That means we can discard 4 as a candidate. Similarly in the third row the 8 has isolated the 9. It leaves only the 7 and that is the solution for the first cell in the 2-cell straight.

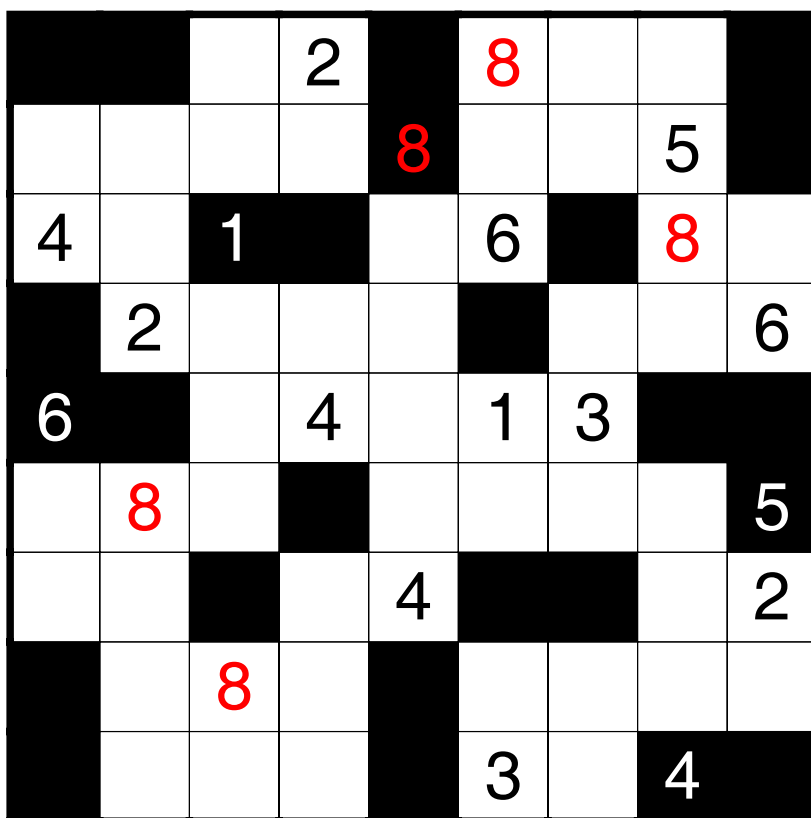
Another way to look at it is this. Write out all the remaining numbers available in a compartment. If there is a gap - then only the numbers before or the numbers after the gap can be the solution to all the cells.

There are many strategies for Str8ts - take a look on the Str8ts website www.str8ts.com

'8s' STR8TS - Variety in Concept

In this version of Str8ts only the numbers 1 to 8 need to be placed. Still a nine by nine board but no 9s appear in these puzzles.

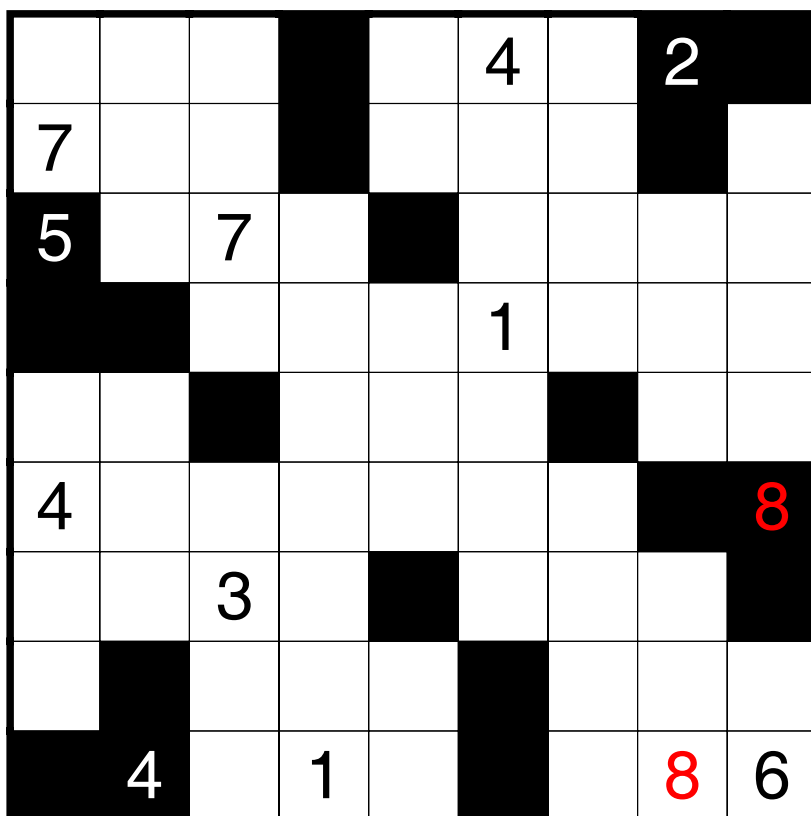
1.



Moderate

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2.



Tough

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'8s' STR8TS - Asymmetrical

Instead of a perfectly symmetrical Str8ts we can add even more variety with these much more random looking puzzles. Alternating with these in a book gives even more freshness to puzzles placed in series. Same grades as the symmetrical versions.

1.

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

Easy

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

2.

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

Easy

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

How it looks in Print

Newspaper Version: Tall

Newspaper Version: Wide

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.

You can find hints and tips at

www.str8ts.com

The solution will be published here tomorrow.

Yesterday's solution Diabolical

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

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

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Str8ts

No 365. Easy

Yesterday's solution, Diabolical

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

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.

You can find hints and tips at

www.str8ts.com

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

Solutions

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

No 2. moderate

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

No 3. moderate

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

No 4. tough

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

No 5. tough

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

No 6. diabolical

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

No 7. diabolical

		3	2
	2	4	3
3	1	2	
2	3		

No1 4x4

	3	2	
3	2	1	
2	1	4	3
		3	4

No 2 4x4

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

No 1. 8s Str8ts

2	6	5	4		
	4	6	5	3	
3	2			5	4
4	5		1	2	3
	3	1	2	4	
		2	3	1	5

Tough 6x6

5	4	3			1
3	2	4		5	6
6	1	5	4	2	3
4	5	6	3	1	2
2	3		6	4	5
	6	2	5	3	4

Diabolical 6x6

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

No 2. 8s Str8ts

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
andrew@syndicatedpuzzles.com

Grades are **easy, moderate, tough** and **diabolical**
Extremes are not for print unless the requirements and audience are specialist

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www.syndicatedpuzzles.com

The Str8ts websites are

www.str8ts.com and www.str8ts.de

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