

Big Apple

This is a variant of sudoku which is the best variant I have encountered.

A variant has all the same rules as sudoku, but with an added restriction of some sort. In this case the extra restriction is that the nine small squares, here coloured blue, are to be treated as a box. Remember, the normal sudoku is described as having nine boxes of nine small squares, and all nine digits, 1 to 9, must occur in each box, each row, and each column when the problem is solved.

Killer sudoku is not just a variant, as in that puzzle the nine digits take on their true numerical character, whereas for classic sudoku the digits are simply labels.

I have made these puzzles without any patterning of the givens for no other reason than that any pattern clashes aesthetically with the four blue squares.

The name I use is my own invention, simply because I discovered this variant in the New York Herald Tribune. My first naming was NYHT_blue, guess why! However, when I came to write my book I knew that blue squares were not an option, so Big Apple it was to be.

This variant does challenge the mind more than the norm, as you will soon find, but due to this extra effort I have refrained from putting in any very hard examples. You will surely not need any introductory help with these as I assume you have some experience of the classic sudoku.

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

1

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

2

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

3

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

4

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

5

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

6

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

7

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

8

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

9

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

10

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

11

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

12

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

13

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

14

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

15

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

16

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

17

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

18

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

19

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

20

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

21

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

22

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

23

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

24

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

25

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

26

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

27

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5	1						2
6		2		8			
					3		6
	9	4					
				2			

28

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

29

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

30

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

31

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

32

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

33

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

34

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

35

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

36

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

37

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

38

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

39

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5	1						2
6		2		8			
					3		6
	9	4					
				2			

40

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

41

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

42

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

43

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

44

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

45

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

46

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

47

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

48

Solutions

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

4

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

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6

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9

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10

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1	9	8	6	7	5	3	2	4

11

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

12

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

13

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14

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15

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16

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18

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19

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21

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

22

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

23

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7	9	2	1	6	8	5	4	3
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4	6	7	8	1	5	3	9	2
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25

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26

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27

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28

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29

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30

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31

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32

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33

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34

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35

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36

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37

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38

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40

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41

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42

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43

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44

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45

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