

Hitori

This puzzle has often appeared in our newspapers, though it has never been a regular choice as far as I am aware. It has the drawback that the square grid has a number in each cell, making it uncomfortable for the eyes. Another problem is that as the puzzles get larger, the range of the numbers must increase, so for the largest size presented here, 16×16 , we have to choose between using 10, 11 etc., or the hexadecimal representation of A for 10, B for 11 etc.. As in sudoku, the numbers are used only as labels, so we could choose simply to use the alphabet. Size does matter with this puzzle as the complexity, which is its interest, only becomes fully apparent in the larger puzzles.

Your task with this puzzle is to blank out some of the numbers so that no duplicates of any number occur in any row or any column. The cells that are blanked out are only allowed to touch at their corners, but do not need to touch any others. The cells which remain must all be connected edge to edge, so if you start in any cell you must be able to journey to any other cell. This connectivity challenge is what demands more attention as the problems get bigger.

You have to develop a strategy to avoid blocking cells off from the main body, while working out how to decide which cells to blank out. A very simple example is afforded by finding three of the same numbers in a row, like ...888... , two of which must be blanked out; they must be the first and the third as the blanked cells may not be joined together. You will soon discover more complex strategies so a worked example should not be necessary. If you are new to this puzzle, a quick glance at the answers should show you the patterns you are aiming for.

Another puzzle has been invented, **Heyawake**, which aims to achieve the same pattern of filled and empty cells, but has a different logic system for determining the pattern and this allows the size of the puzzle to be unrestricted. I've recently got to grips with this puzzle, so have a go with the examples on offer on this web-site.

Hitori 9×9

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

1

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

2

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

3

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

4

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

5

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

6

Hitori 9×9

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

7

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

8

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

9

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

10

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

11

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

12

Hitori 9×9

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

13

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

14

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

15

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

16

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

17

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

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Hitori 9×9

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

19

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

20

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

21

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

22

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

23

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

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Hitori 12×12

3	4	4	2	5	B	1	8	4	6	B	C
1	9	4	7	1	A	4	B	3	3	8	2
9	5	A	B	C	7	6	4	1	8	2	3
2	8	9	C	A	B	2	7	7	C	3	6
6	2	9	9	B	B	5	A	4	2	6	7
7	3	1	8	9	2	9	5	6	3	C	4
6	7	C	A	8	2	C	B	8	9	1	2
A	1	7	5	6	3	B	A	5	4	8	8
3	2	B	9	7	3	A	C	B	B	6	4
B	A	3	C	2	7	9	6	9	C	4	1
4	C	5	3	1	7	9	7	7	A	A	6
7	6	5	B	4	C	8	7	2	B	9	7

1

B	B	B	5	4	A	3	6	C	5	8	1
2	C	6	1	4	A	8	5	A	B	A	5
C	7	2	8	4	3	C	4	6	A	5	9
3	9	C	4	8	B	9	A	5	4	2	C
5	3	3	7	8	4	8	1	2	9	A	A
A	5	2	C	C	9	6	7	5	4	9	B
A	A	A	B	3	8	2	7	4	7	3	6
7	9	1	5	A	6	B	2	C	5	4	8
6	6	9	C	9	4	1	A	3	8	7	8
C	2	B	3	5	9	7	5	8	C	A	4
8	4	2	9	8	7	B	8	4	C	4	3
8	1	4	C	2	C	8	3	7	6	B	8

2

6	5	3	4	2	6	6	4	9	7	1	5
3	7	B	5	C	4	B	1	C	8	4	A
2	1	7	5	B	4	6	3	5	A	8	9
1	B	6	8	9	A	4	7	1	9	3	C
6	8	A	1	3	8	9	2	B	C	8	9
6	1	5	1	7	3	C	8	6	9	9	B
7	9	4	2	8	B	B	C	6	6	5	3
B	9	C	8	6	1	8	9	A	1	7	B
6	C	B	3	9	6	6	5	7	2	A	B
4	5	B	6	8	3	9	C	C	4	2	6
8	4	1	1	A	5	5	9	3	7	3	2
8	3	7	B	4	C	1	6	B	A	C	8

3

1	9	B	7	A	3	B	8	6	4	5	2
8	4	2	1	7	B	3	6	9	C	1	A
C	4	A	3	3	C	8	4	4	9	B	7
2	5	8	B	1	2	9	A	C	8	7	8
B	2	3	C	9	C	7	7	5	A	4	2
3	4	7	6	A	4	9	5	C	2	1	B
9	9	6	5	8	7	1	8	B	5	A	4
9	6	2	4	2	C	A	C	3	B	1	2
7	4	4	2	1	1	3	6	7	B	3	9
2	7	9	B	4	6	B	2	A	6	C	5
A	C	1	3	5	2	6	8	2	8	6	7
5	A	3	C	9	4	5	B	4	3	8	5

4

3	7	3	7	5	2	7	4	8	A	8	1
B	8	8	7	C	6	4	C	3	A	9	2
8	A	C	9	3	B	8	5	6	1	7	6
3	9	6	A	8	B	A	4	5	4	B	4
5	7	A	3	A	4	6	C	9	9	4	7
8	B	C	5	6	8	2	C	4	3	C	4
C	1	B	8	C	9	5	8	7	6	4	6
9	3	2	C	7	8	6	A	8	B	5	4
C	4	9	1	B	A	7	8	B	C	6	9
7	6	4	2	B	C	9	1	9	5	2	C
5	C	5	3	A	3	B	5	1	8	2	7
4	2	C	A	9	B	1	7	C	7	3	8

5

B	C	5	3	A	2	3	B	7	9	1	4
C	7	7	1	B	9	5	6	8	1	2	7
A	A	2	3	6	8	7	9	A	1	C	7
B	6	4	B	8	3	2	B	1	A	A	6
6	4	8	5	C	A	7	A	A	2	9	5
2	A	9	3	5	A	7	4	3	B	B	8
1	6	A	7	9	A	B	5	A	C	8	7
3	9	2	4	4	C	1	B	5	8	8	2
4	B	8	9	2	7	9	B	C	1	A	5
C	2	B	9	3	7	C	5	9	5	6	B
8	B	8	2	6	4	9	3	A	8	7	C
8	8	6	A	8	2	7	1	C	7	5	7

6

Hitori 12×12

7	A	C	2	5	3	B	1	5	8	1	A
B	2	8	1	3	6	5	9	6	A	B	4
4	B	6	7	5	C	9	5	B	2	8	A
C	8	5	C	6	9	2	1	C	7	B	5
3	9	B	C	4	7	7	A	B	5	2	1
C	4	3	6	9	A	6	8	1	8	5	6
8	5	1	9	6	5	4	9	3	6	A	5
B	6	3	4	1	B	2	B	7	4	9	3
2	3	8	6	6	B	B	4	C	9	3	7
3	B	7	2	8	1	A	B	9	4	6	3
7	9	4	5	4	6	8	3	B	C	6	2
7	7	5	A	C	4	C	6	5	1	2	B

7

A	3	5	C	4	2	4	A	8	A	5	B
8	C	5	A	7	4	9	2	A	3	1	B
B	7	4	1	A	6	4	9	3	2	1	7
9	A	5	2	B	5	7	4	5	9	5	1
2	B	9	5	6	C	6	8	4	2	A	5
9	5	C	3	6	A	B	A	5	8	C	9
3	4	A	8	9	5	1	7	C	B	7	9
7	6	7	7	2	4	C	3	1	2	B	A
5	9	2	A	8	1	3	B	2	C	1	6
4	B	C	1	6	9	6	5	7	6	2	3
2	8	B	A	9	1	A	5	2	7	2	5
C	1	A	6	5	4	2	4	9	5	3	8

8

A	2	A	A	8	9	3	6	A	B	C	3
3	5	4	1	2	9	1	A	6	C	C	5
8	6	2	B	3	1	5	5	1	A	4	9
A	A	A	B	C	3	1	7	9	4	2	4
A	6	5	5	1	9	7	5	3	2	6	7
1	8	B	7	4	A	4	2	5	3	9	6
6	9	8	4	6	9	C	6	4	4	7	3
7	5	8	2	4	B	9	C	5	8	3	A
C	7	1	8	5	1	B	C	C	9	4	2
5	3	9	8	7	7	A	B	2	1	1	C
1	B	3	6	9	1	5	5	2	7	8	3
C	4	7	2	B	5	6	1	8	7	5	7

9

7	2	5	5	6	C	3	B	9	3	C	A
8	9	6	6	2	3	7	5	3	4	4	1
6	6	1	2	9	8	3	7	B	A	9	B
C	1	A	B	3	1	9	1	7	5	2	4
B	4	2	1	C	6	B	A	9	8	9	8
5	2	3	6	8	B	C	9	2	A	A	6
B	7	1	2	C	5	8	4	6	9	1	4
3	B	9	B	A	7	4	6	A	4	2	5
6	2	B	9	7	2	4	C	A	1	3	8
2	C	8	C	B	6	5	2	5	6	9	9
4	3	B	7	A	A	5	8	B	5	C	2
7	8	A	5	1	3	C	4	C	B	8	4

10

A	A	C	A	6	1	9	C	5	8	8	9
7	C	9	1	2	A	B	4	A	5	3	8
5	9	3	4	1	6	3	8	1	B	9	A
3	6	1	C	5	A	A	7	2	B	4	C
5	3	4	B	A	2	B	9	3	C	B	1
1	7	9	3	C	C	1	6	2	4	9	1
B	8	A	2	1	3	1	1	C	6	A	5
4	5	5	1	9	B	2	3	B	7	A	6
C	A	4	5	8	B	7	B	9	3	8	C
9	2	6	B	3	4	8	7	7	3	1	8
1	3	2	8	4	1	C	8	6	A	5	7
B	1	B	7	B	A	9	2	C	8	B	4

11

4	3	9	C	5	B	1	7	1	C	2	8
7	2	2	6	3	3	1	9	1	A	A	2
9	4	C	A	6	B	8	5	2	2	7	C
4	4	A	1	4	7	A	C	8	6	9	6
A	9	A	4	8	1	B	2	9	6	8	7
B	7	1	3	3	1	A	9	2	4	5	9
5	9	4	3	A	6	6	B	A	8	C	8
A	A	7	C	2	6	9	4	5	B	8	B
6	5	1	C	6	9	7	B	B	A	8	1
6	6	3	8	1	1	4	A	1	9	B	2
2	8	5	4	7	A	3	C	4	1	6	8
4	B	A	7	C	5	B	6	A	8	4	3

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Hitori 16 × 16

B	8	9	6	E	1	1	3	G	F	C	2	E	4	7	D
D	F	8	A	5	7	3	D	E	F	D	1	6	F	9	8
7	G	B	C	D	9	B	E	G	4	2	3	9	A	3	F
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A	7	G	B	8	B	6	F	C	E	F	9	A	2	F	5
F	B	6	A	E	2	F	G	D	9	6	9	1	3	C	8
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G	G	5	F	D	A	B	6	C	7	B	1	8	1	C	4
8	F	B	2	1	9	A	2	C	3	C	4	7	7	E	4
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2	5	9	7	4	1	8	D	G	6	B	8	B	9	6	G
7	B	2	3	C	D	F	1	6	G	E	4	5	7	A	9
4	A	F	9	B	4	8	A	7	7	4	6	2	D	G	6

1

6	8	E	E	5	G	B	2	7	9	B	3	A	4	4	D
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G	B	1	8	4	9	E	5	G	3	3	6	C	1	B	9
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3	9	9	4	D	1	9	F	C	C	A	2	B	F	7	E
F	3	2	D	G	9	7	8	7	B	9	B	D	E	A	B

2

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1	B	F	3	G	C	4	7	9	8	E	8	9	A	7	
B	6	6	6	5	A	4	7	9	3	8	2	7	G	F	3

3

5	1	8	G	D	2	9	2	4	A	2	E	7	1	6	C
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F	A	2	5	3	1	G	8	D	4	6	2	E	9	F	1
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2	G	A	1	E	G	7	D	6	3	A	5	6	3	9	8
D	3	5	3	6	3	D	E	8	7	1	F	3	2	7	B
G	6	9	E	B	2	4	9	B	1	B	2	3	A	7	2

4

1	3	2	E	5	6	D	8	6	1	6	C	9	A	2	D
C	G	3	B	G	2	1	7	D	4	9	F	2	E	6	E
A	9	D	7	9	C	G	4	8	E	B	C	2	G	B	6
9	6	9	6	3	B	B	G	D	A	1	7	5	8	F	1
2	A	C	6	2	3	6	9	F	E	D	2	B	7	7	F
9	2	9	8	1	5	G	3	C	C	7	3	A	D	E	E
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1	8	3	G	C	9	B	E	4	A	3	4	F	B	5	G
9	5	5	A	G	6	8	B	5	C	F	1	6	2	3	4
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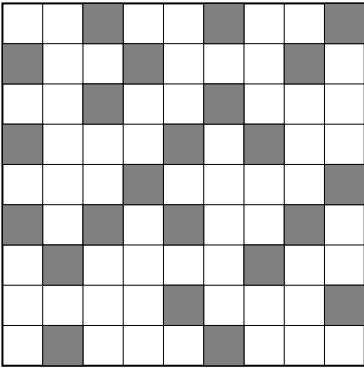
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3	D	5	4	6	G	6	C	8	7	E	B	1	A	6	5
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D	2	F	7	6	1	D	G	9	G	C	1	3	5	8	G
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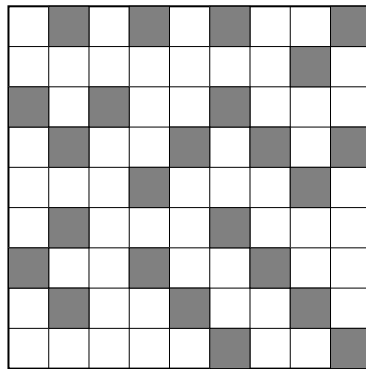
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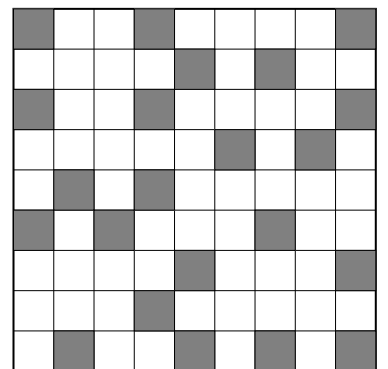
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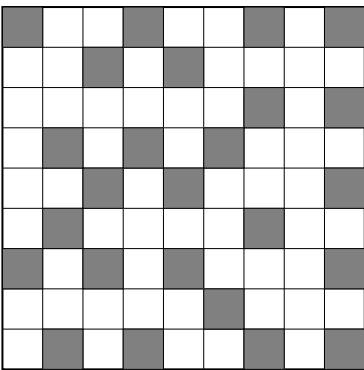
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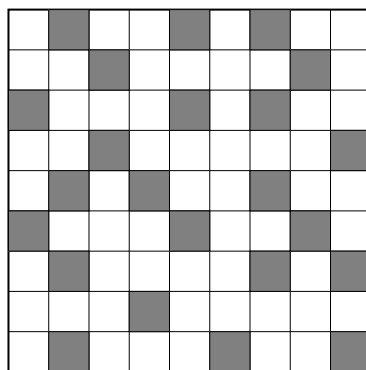
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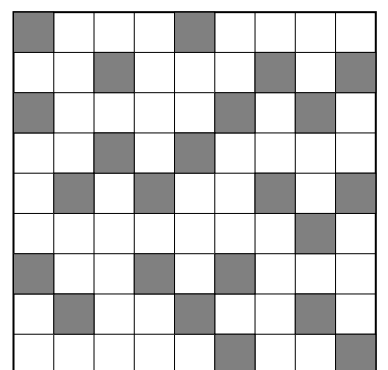
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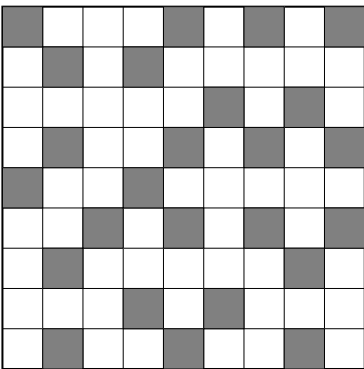
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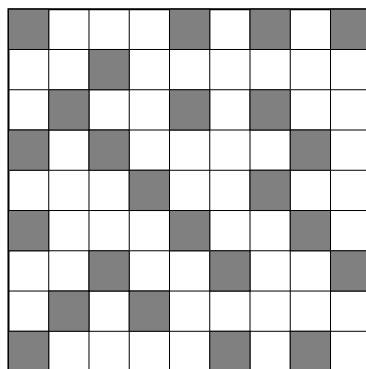
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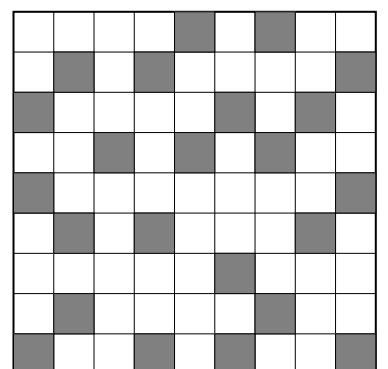
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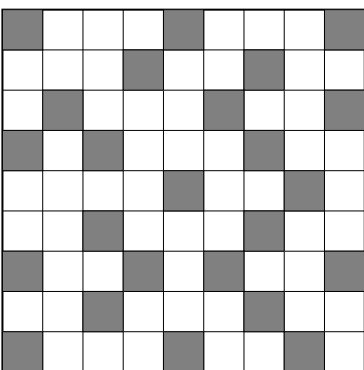
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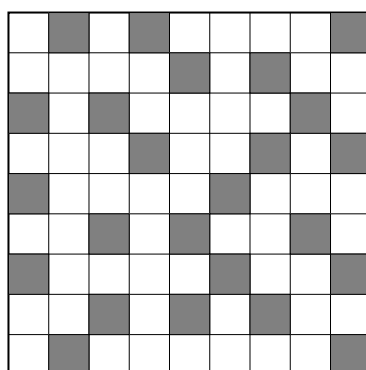
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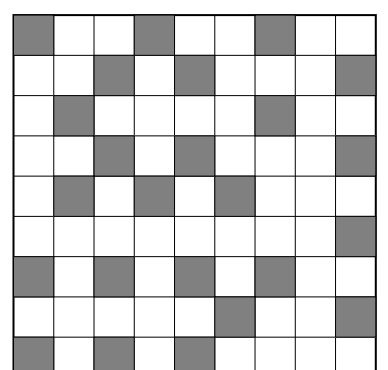
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