

Sudoku a Day

Week 9, 2026

Monday Feb 16 '26 – Sunday Feb 22 '26

Hard

Scan the QR code next to each puzzle to open it in the Sudoku a Day app

Monday
Feb 16 '26
Hard

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

Start each puzzle by scanning for singles, sweep every row, column, and box to find cells that have only one possible number. A couple of clean scan passes build momentum and often unlock the entire early game.

sudokuaday.com/scanning

Tuesday
Feb 17 '26
Hard

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

Use a consistent sweep rhythm—rows, then columns, then boxes—to avoid missing easy placements. A predictable cycle makes new progress pop visually when you loop back around.

sudokuaday.com/scanning

Thursday
Feb 19 '26
Hard

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

A naked single is a cell with just one candidate. They appear constantly after each elimination round—so recheck for singles frequently, even in late stages of a hard puzzle.

sudokuaday.com/naked-single

Wednesday
Feb 18 '26
Hard

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

Pencil marks are your mob. Add candidates as they become legal and clear them as soon as they're not. Fresh notes prevent phantom contradictions and reveal pairs and hidden singles at a glance.

sudokuaday.com/pencil-marks

Friday
Feb 20 '26
Hard

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

A hidden single is the only place a digit can go in a row, column, or box—even if that cell lists other marks. Check each digit 1-9 per unit to uncover hidden singles efficiently.

sudokuaday.com/hidden-single

Saturday
Feb 21 '26
Hard

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

Try digit-focused scanning: pick a number and sweep the grid to see where it can go. This perspective makes spotting pairs and box-line reductions much easier to spot than unit-by-unit scans.

sudokuaday.com/scanning

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

Monday, Feb 16 '26

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

Tuesday, Feb 17 '26

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

Wednesday, Feb 18 '26

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

Thursday, Feb 19 '26

Sunday
Feb 22 '26
Hard

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

Painting pairs: if a digit's candidates in a box lie in a single row (or column), eliminate that digit from the rest of that row (or column) outside the box. It's a mid-game workhorse.

sudokuaday.com/painting-pairs

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

Friday, Feb 20 '26

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

Saturday, Feb 21 '26

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

Sunday, Feb 22 '26