

# The Sudoku Square Technique (SST)

A New Way To Play Sudoku

Created by Dr. Jim Cain

I've been playing Sudoku for a few years now, and recently I noticed something. The level of interest in any particular puzzle is highest as the puzzle is being solved, but rapidly decreases (to nearly zero) once the puzzle is completed. I wanted to find an interesting way to increase the enjoyment of these wonderful puzzles, and here is my first idea, the Sudoku Square Technique (SST).

The basic idea is to complete the entire perimeter of the Sudoku puzzle (a square comprised of nine numbers on each side) before entering any numbers within the interior of the puzzle. This technique invites two moments of interest in every Sudoku puzzle. One when the square is complete, and the traditional second when the entire grid has been completely filled.

For example, start with the Sudoku puzzle on the left (rated easy) and see if you can fill in the entire perimeter (outside square) with numbers before entering any numbers to the interior blocks of the puzzle. The solution is given at the right.

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

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

The SST is not only applicable to easy Sudoku puzzles. Even some of the most difficult Sudoku puzzles can be attacked using SST.

So now, each time you solve a Sudoku puzzle, you can experience two moments of victory. First by completing the Sudoku Square, and second by completing the entire puzzle. Good luck!

Dr. Jim Cain invented the Sudoku Square Technique (SST) in November of 2016. He is a teambuilding guru and author with over a dozen best selling team and community building activity books, including Teamwork & Teamplay, Essential Staff Training Activities, A Teachable Moment and his latest book, 100 Activities That Build Unity, Community & Connection. You can find out more about Jim and his work at: [www.teamworkandteamplay.com](http://www.teamworkandteamplay.com).