Creative Café

A puzzle collection

Animals in the Bible Wordsearch – what is left?

O	L	M	O	S	Q	U	I	T	O	O	B	E
L	I	O	N	L	O	C	U	S	T	M	N	W
I	R	U	K	S	I	L	I	S	A	B	E	E
A	D	S	M	G	B	A	T	L	N	E	V	Y
N	J	E	T	L	E	V	I	A	T	H	A	N
S	W	A	N	A	X	C	N	D	E	E	R	G
F	A	L	C	O	N	E	K	R	L	M	O	D
L	V	W	H	K	Y	G	O	O	O	O	E	N
O	I	I	I	H	A	N	I	N	P	T	W	E
W	P	T	U	R	T	L	E	A	E	H	W	L
W	E	T	E	S	H	E	D	G	E	H	O	G
O	R	G	A	Z	E	L	L	E	M	E	R	A
W	O	N	D	C	O	B	R	A	E	R	M	E

ANTELOPE
BASILISK
BAT
BEE
BEHEMOTH
CAT
COBRA
DEER
EAGLE
EWE
FALCON
GAZELLE
GECKO
GNAT
HEDGEHOG
HERON
HYENA
IBEX
JACKAL
KITE
LAMB
LEVIATHAN
LION
LOCUST
MOSQUITO
MOUSE
OWL
RAVEN
SNAIL
SWAN
TURTLE
VIPER
WOLF
WORM

Plants in the Bible wordsearch – what is left and what is the spare letter?

A	N	N	A	M	G	C	R	O	C	U	S	H
A	L	W	L	A	T	I	L	H	R	I	W	T
X	N	O	R	E	D	N	E	U	J	G	A	N
S	A	L	E	K	O	N	E	T	U	B	T	I
R	I	L	I	A	O	A	K	A	N	G	E	B
C	M	I	F	R	W	M	G	R	I	I	R	E
O	U	W	I	D	M	O	D	E	P	F	M	R
T	S	C	R	N	R	N	N	S	E	G	E	E
T	T	H	U	A	O	E	Y	I	R	T	L	T
O	A	A	N	M	W	A	L	A	O	B	O	X
N	R	D	L	B	B	E	P	P	A	N	N	M
U	D	A	N	I	S	E	T	I	P	F	U	L
L	M	P	O	M	E	G	R	A	N	A	T	E

ALMOND
APPLE
ANISE
BAY
BOX
CINNAMON
COTTON
CROCUS
CUCUMBER
ELM (x2)
FIG
FIR
FLAX
GARLIC
GRAPE
JUNIPER
LEEK
MANDRAKE
MANNA
MINT
MUSTARD
OAK
ONION
POMEGRANATE
RUE
TARES
TEREBINTH
WATERMELON
WILLOW
WORMWOOD

Sudoku

Here are a couple of Sudoku Puzzles to try. The QR Codes lead to a version of the puzzle online in a program called Sven's Sudokupad, which has some tools for online solving on a phone, tablet or computer.

The first one is this

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

And this one

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

And if you think those were easy ...
here is something much harder

Almost all of the best puzzles are not like the ones in the newspapers, but are set by incredible people – some are quite easy. Others can be very difficult. This puzzle is called Valtari by the constructor Shye. They are difficult in a way that the newspaper puzzles are not – thefiendish ones often rely on long chains of reasoning

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

Play online

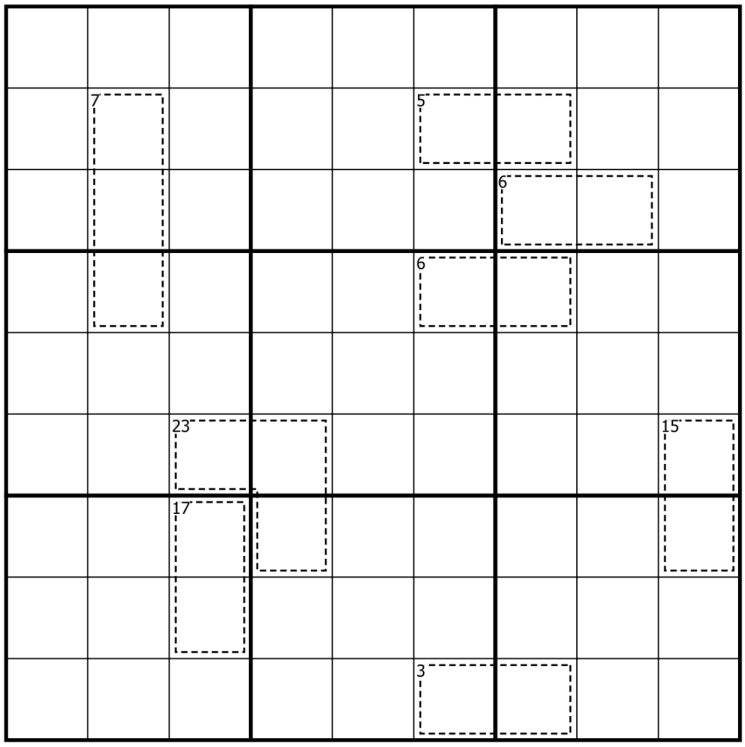
See an expert solve the puzzle

And Shye explains how she set the puzzle (watch the expert first)

Killer Sudoku

In the newspapers, Killer Sudoku puzzles generally have grids filled with cages. The Sudoku grid has to be filled as usual, but the digits in each cage have to sum to the total given for that cage. Two digits might be said to sum to 3 or to 14. The general rule for cages is that digits cannot repeat in a cage, but this is generally only significant for more advanced puzzles. I have put a couple of easier puzzles in for you to solve, but wanted also to introduce you to some of the extraordinary possibilities through one of my favourite ever puzzles.

It is in fact possible to create some very satisfying puzzles where the cages do not completely fill the grid. The most extreme version of this was set by the constructor Philip Newman – his puzzle “White Room” has the following grid, in which the cages cover just 18 cells. This is the fewest possible.

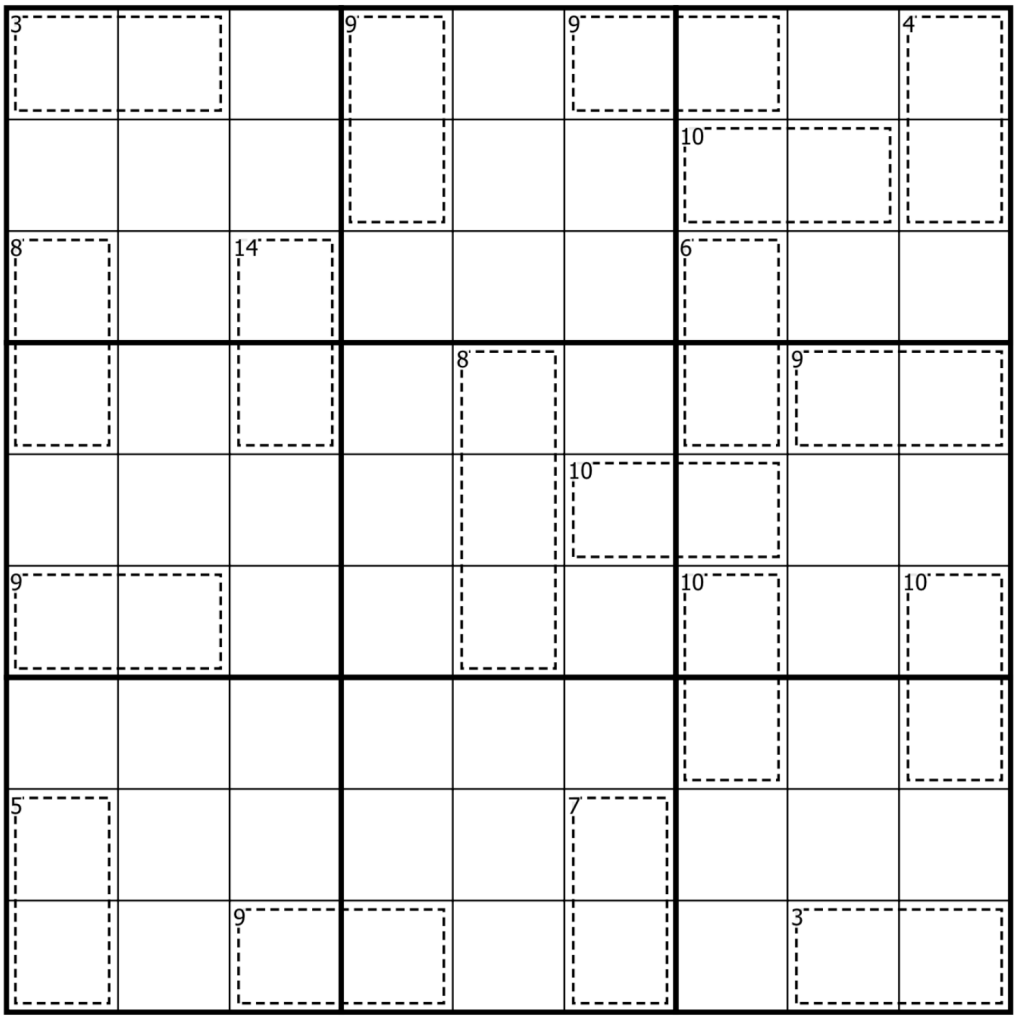


Try Philip Newman’s amazing puzzle online

Watch an expert solver solve this one on YouTube

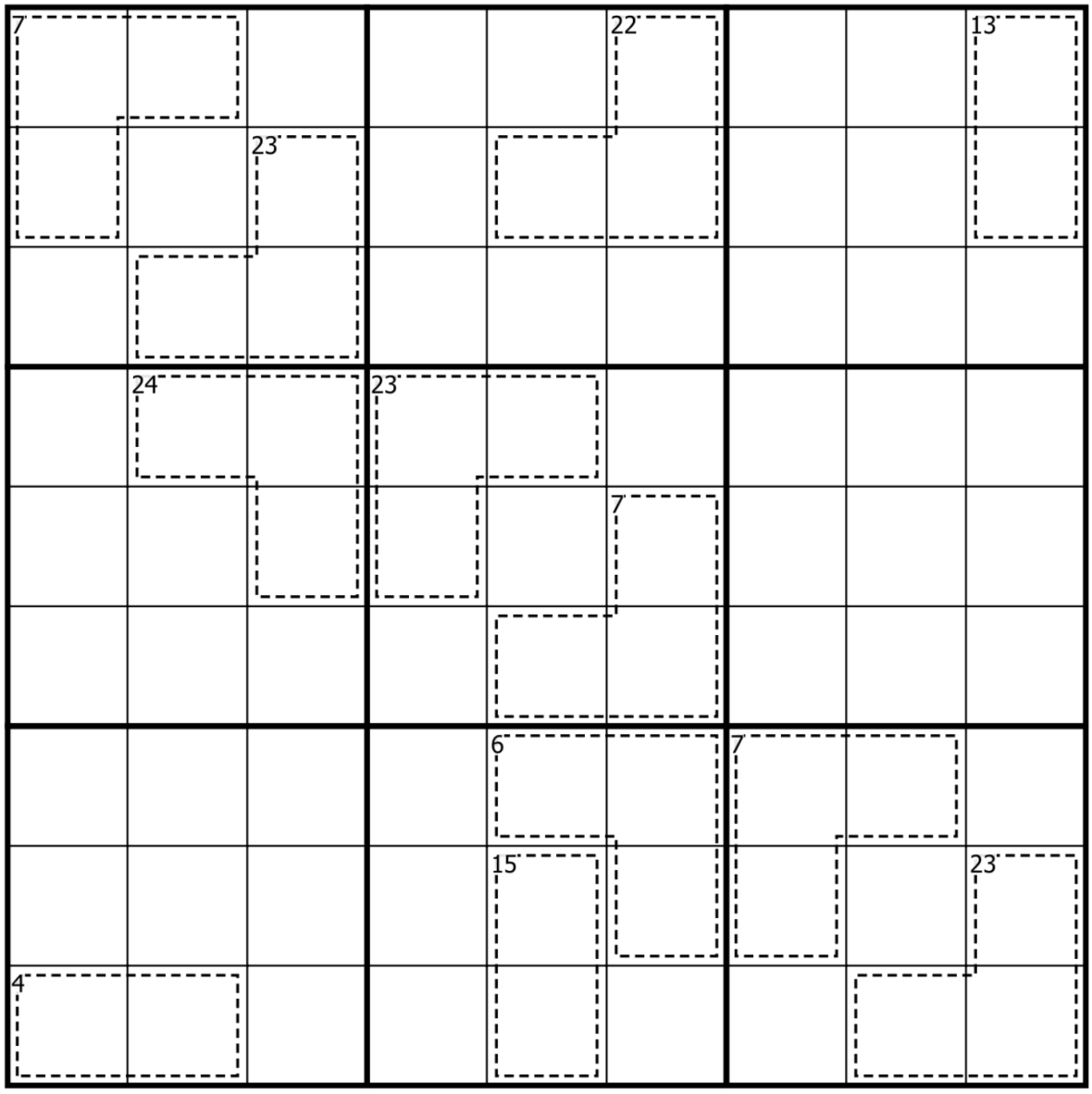
One technique used for a puzzle like this is colouring. You may know that a cell contains either 8 or 9, but not know which. Another cell may also have the same options. Sometimes you know that the two cells must be the same, or must be different. The online solver Sudokupad allows you to use colours to mark which cells must be the same/different, I only understood the power of this technique after watching the video of this solve. It is quite something.

Now here is a rather easier one for you to try – it still doesn't have so many cages as you may be used to, but that sometimes makes life easier, because there are only a few places to look for the next step in the solution.



And solve online here:

And here is another



And also solve here