

We use the sign \otimes to indicate that a 1 cannot be placed in this position, and we use the sign \bigcirc to indicate that a 1 can possibly be placed in this position. We label the Bricks (3x3 squares) as follows:

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

Step 1: There are three 1s in the Sudoku. Let's eliminate all the cells that are in the same rows or columns as these 1s by using the sign \otimes . We do that for Bricks 1, 2, 6, 8, 9 and then we fill the remaining cells with the sign \bigcirc which means that it is possible to have a 1 here).

Step 1

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	6	\bigcirc	\otimes	9	\otimes	\bigcirc		2	
2	\otimes	5	\otimes	\bigcirc	\otimes	7			9
3	\otimes	\bigcirc	\otimes	2	\otimes	\bigcirc	8		
4		4			3		\bigcirc	\bigcirc	7
5			1				4	\otimes	\otimes
6	2				1		\otimes	9	\otimes
7			5	\bigcirc	\otimes	6	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
8	1			8	\otimes	\otimes	\otimes	3	\otimes
9		6		\bigcirc	\otimes	5	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	4

Step 2: In Brick 8 we know that there is a 1 in column 4. Thus in Brick 2 there cannot be a 1 in column 4. Thus we put a cross over the circle in the cell of row 2, column 4.

Step 3: Thus the 1s in Bricks 1 and 2 must be in rows 1 and 3 (one of 1s in each row). This means that in Brick 3 we cannot have a 1 in rows 1 and 3. So we also fill Brick 3 (as shown).

Steps 2 and 3

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	6	\bigcirc	\otimes	9	\otimes	\bigcirc	\otimes	2	\otimes
2	\otimes	5	\otimes	\otimes	\otimes	7	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	9
3	\otimes	\bigcirc	\otimes	2	\otimes	\bigcirc	8	\otimes	\otimes
4		4			3		\bigcirc	\bigcirc	7
5			1				4	\otimes	\otimes
6	2				1		\otimes	9	\otimes
7			5	\bigcirc	\otimes	6	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
8	1			8	\otimes	\otimes	\otimes	3	\otimes
9		6		\bigcirc	\otimes	5	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	4

Step 4: Now note that Bricks 3 and 6 have their 1s in columns 7 and 8 (one of 1s in each column). Thus Brick 9 cannot have a 1 in columns 7 and 8. In Brick 9 the only available position for a 1 in column 9 is X.

Step 4

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	6	\bigcirc	\otimes	9	\otimes	\bigcirc	\otimes	2	\otimes
2	\otimes	5	\otimes	\otimes	\otimes	7	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	9
3	\otimes	\bigcirc	\otimes	2	\otimes	\bigcirc	8	\otimes	\otimes
4		4			3		\bigcirc	\bigcirc	7
5			1				4	\otimes	\otimes
6	2				1		\otimes	9	\otimes
7			5	\bigcirc	\otimes	6	\otimes	\otimes	\bigcirc
8	1			8	\otimes	\otimes	\otimes	3	\otimes
9		6		\bigcirc	\otimes	5	\otimes	\otimes	4

