

The Philadelphia Inquirer  
**Sudoku**  
**NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**™  
*Hosted by Will Shortz*

**Level Selection for the Philadelphia Inquirer Sudoku National Championship**

Not exactly sure what level you should register for? No worries. Here are some things you should know to help guide you in making the best selection for your skill level.

First off, whether you register as a beginner, intermediate or advance, you will have three rounds to compete in, and in each round you will have three puzzles at your skill level to solve in 30 minutes. That's three puzzles in 30 minutes, and you've got to do it three times. (This is different from the 2007 Championship, where beginners had just one puzzle to solve each round.)

If you place first in any one of those rounds you are automatically in the final round and get a chance to win a big cash prize. You will still be able to compete in the remaining rounds, but you have already secured your spot in the final round. In addition, you will be able to compete in two bonus rounds and have the opportunity to win even more cash prizes before the final rounds begin. If you win one bonus round you can compete in the next bonus round, but you are not eligible to win.

Below are sample puzzles from the 2007 Philadelphia Inquirer Sudoku National Championship. Try solving these puzzles, and use your times to help select the right skill level for you. The prizes get larger as the skill level increases, so you'll want to be in the highest skill category that you are comfortable with.

When timing yourself solving these puzzles, if you find that you've made a mistake that you cannot immediately recover from, then you should take a break and start over with a clean copy of the puzzle and restart your timer. Otherwise, your timings will too high and you'll likely end up in the wrong skill category.

**Advanced Level**

If you can finish both of these puzzles in less than 30 minutes (total time), then you are an advanced solver. If it took you longer, you should try the intermediate puzzles below to see if a different category is better for you.

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

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

**Intermediate Level**

If you can finish both of these puzzles in 10-20 minutes (total time), then you're probably an intermediate solver. If it took you longer to solve, you should try the beginner puzzles below. If you finished them in less time, then you should try the advanced category.

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

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

**Beginner Level**

If you can finish both of these puzzles in less than 10 minutes (total time), then you should try the intermediate category.

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

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

## Answers

### Advanced

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

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

### Intermediate

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

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

### Beginner

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

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