

Samurai Sudoku Solver Checklist

This checklist is designed by **Sudoku Times** to help solvers maintain accuracy and consistency while tackling complex Samurai Sudoku puzzles. Follow these best practices to ensure logical progression, avoid common pitfalls, and improve overall solving efficiency.

■ **1. Overlap Awareness**

Always update both grids when placing or eliminating a number in an overlap zone.

■ **2. Center Grid Patience**

Avoid committing too early in the central grid—wait for clear support from outer grids.

■ **3. Grid Alignment**

Label or highlight global rows and columns to prevent misalignment between printed grids.

■ **4. 3×3 Box Integrity**

Check every placement in overlap zones against both involved 3×3 boxes to prevent repeats.

■ **5. Regular Overlap Scans**

After every few moves, rescan all four overlap regions for new singles or conflicts.

■ **6. Candidate Discipline**

Keep pencil marks updated; eliminate invalid candidates immediately after every placement.

■ **7. Logical Proof Only**

Never guess. Every move must be logically deduced from current information.

■ **8. Propagation Habit**

Each confirmed number in one grid should trigger a cross-check in connected grids.

■ **9. Symmetry Check**

If the puzzle is symmetrical, compare mirrored grids for missed deductions.

■ **10. Final Verification**

Before finishing, verify all rows, columns, and 3×3 boxes across all grids contain 1–9 without repeats.

Pro Tip: Work in short, controlled solving cycles—Outer → Overlap → Center → Recheck. Frequent cross-verification prevents cascading errors.