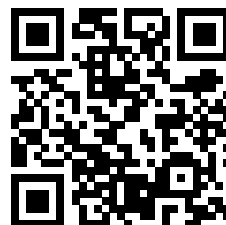


## Staircase Sudoku

Place a digit from 1 to 9 into each of the empty squares so that each digit appears exactly once in each of the rows, columns and the nine outlined 3x3 regions.

Rows and columns span across the gaps in the diagram.



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

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