

In a hitori puzzle, cells must be blacked out such that no row or column has any number occurring more than once. Black cells cannot share an edge. The remaining cells must all be connected to each other via their edges.

There are a couple of tricks to get started. This example should show us them.

2	1	3	4	2
4	5	1	3	5
2	4	4	5	5
1	5	2	4	1
5	3	3	2	3

In column 1, one of the two 2s must be blacked out. Since the 4 borders both of them, it cannot be blacked out. I would usually circle the 4 to show that it cannot be shaded. Here, I'm shading the cells green once we know they're not shaded.

In row 5, both of the touching 3s cannot be blacked out, so the 3 on its own must be blacked out.

2	1	3	4	2
4	5	1	3	5
2	4	4	5	5
1	5	2	4	1
5	3	3	2	3

Once a cell is blacked out, we know the adjacent cells must be unshaded. We start to make fast progress where one of these definitely unshaded cells appears multiple times in a row or column, such as the yellow 1 below, so the other 1 in row 4 must be shaded.

2	1	3	4	2
4	5	1	3	5
2	4	4	5	5
1	5	2	4	1
5	3	3	2	3

In the bottom left corner, the yellow 3 must also be unshaded. If it was shaded, then the 5 right in the corner would not be able to connect to the other unshaded cells.

2	1	3	4	2
4	5	1	3	5
2	4	4	5	5
1	5	2	4	1
5	3	3	2	3

We can make some fast progress now by blacking any further occurrences of green numbers in their rows and columns, and colouring green/circling any adjacent numbers to black cells.

2	1	3	4	2
4	5	1	3	5
2	4	4	5	5
1	5	2	4	1
5	3	3	2	3

The central 4 must be black because there is now a green 4 in that row, and the two yellow cells must be unshaded or they would block off one green cell from the rest.

2	1	3	4	2
4	5	1	3	5
2	4	4	5	5
1	5	2	4	1
5	3	3	2	3

The rest should finish using these standard rules.

2	1	3	4	2
4	5	1	3	5
2	4	4	5	5
1	5	2	4	1
5	3	3	2	3