

# KenKen Strategies, A Gross Problem

In the standard puzzle KenKen, the numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares, called *cages*, must combine (in any order) to produce the *target number* in the top corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column. In this  $6 \times 6$  puzzle, the **six numbers** are 1 through 6. The operations are usually given as part of the clues. Here, they are not. Nevertheless, each clue is associated with one of the four standard arithmetic operations. This puzzle is dedicated to puzzle master Thomas Snyder, whose TomTom Puzzles inspired this one.

12		12	12		12
	12				
		12		12	
12			12		
				12	
	12		12		

## KenKen Strategies, A Few Dozen

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12	12		12	
		12		
	12		12	
12			12	

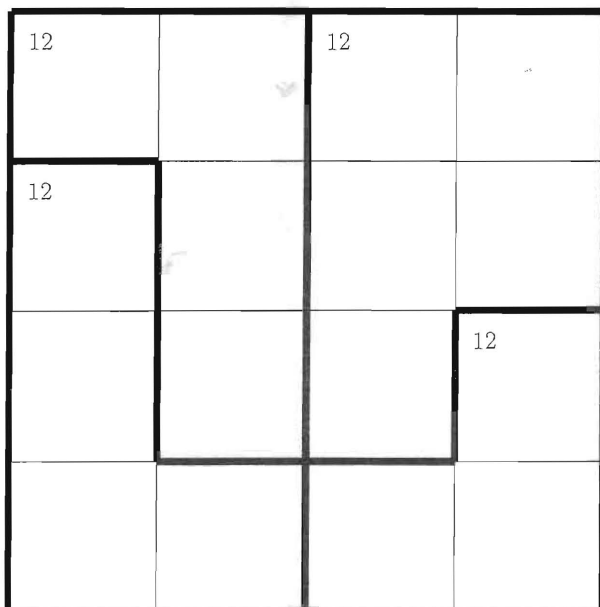
## KenKen Strategies

In this standard puzzle KenKen, the numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares, called *cages*, must combine (in any order) to produce the *target number* in the top corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column. In this  $4 \times 4$  puzzle, the **four numbers** are 1 through 4. The operations are usually given as part of the clues. Here, they are not. Nevertheless, each clue is associated with one of the four standard arithmetic operations. In this problem, which has more than one solution, find the product  $x(5 - y)$ .

12		12	
12		$y$	
	$x$	12	

# KenKen Strategies

Another  $4 \times 4$  challenge. There are several solutions. How many solutions are there?



## KenKen Strategies

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Finally we have yet another  $4 \times 4$  problem. This time, you get to build the cages. **Backwards KenKen** In this problem we start with the 'solution', and we try to find the cages that will produce a unique result. Here's the distribution of digits.

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

Now here's the catch. The only clues you can use are  $12 \times$  and  $12+$  with the exception that there can be a single one-cell cage. The puzzle must have the distribution above as the only solution.

# Moore Challenge Problems

1. Consider the two  $4 \times 4$  puzzles below. The first requires distributing the digits 1 through 4 and the second, the digits 2, 4, 6, and 8.

3-		1-	
2÷	1-		4+
	3-		
6×		3-	

6-		2-	
2÷	2-		8+
	6-		
24×		6-	

2. Next consider the  $4 \times 4$  problems below. Again the alphabet for the first one is  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  while that for the second is  $\{2, 4, 6, 8\}$ . Note that these puzzles have a cage with no clue. We call this a “clueless cage”. Your challenge is solve the first puzzle and to find the clues for the second that result in a unique solution.

7+			
	48×		
1-			
		3	


3. In the standard puzzle KenKen, the numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares, called *cages*, must combine (in any order) to produce the *target number* in the top corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column. In this  $6 \times 6$  puzzle, the **six numbers** are known only to be prime numbers. In contrast to most KenKen puzzles, here you must figure out which operations produce the target numbers. Of course any cage with more than two cells must be multiplication or addition.

39			30		53
15		30	77		
14					
60			25	2	
	29	10		21	
					3

4. Consider the  $6 \times 6$  KenKen fragment. Find the candidates for the  $3-$  cage.

$2 \div$	$12 \times$	$12 \times$		$4 -$	
		$9 +$			$3 -$ $x, y$
					$x, y$

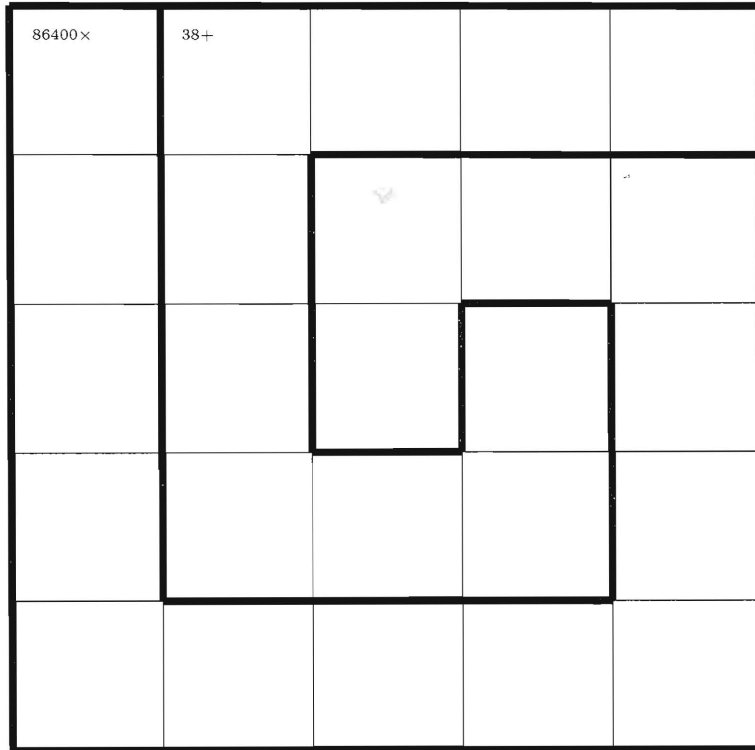
5. **Backwards KenKen** In this problem we start with the 'solution', and we try to find the cages that will produce a unique result. Here's the distribution of digits.

4	2	3	1
1	3	4	2
2	4	1	3
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Now here's the catch. The only clues you can use are  $12 \times$  and  $12 +$  with the exception that there can be a single one-cell cage. The puzzle must have the distribution above as the only solution.



6. **Extremal KenKen** Here's a very mathematical puzzle, one that requires some ideas from elementary number theory. The puzzle is  $5 \times 5$ .



7. **A Few Dozen** In the standard puzzle KenKen, the numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares, called *cages*, must combine (in any order) to produce the *target number* in the top corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column. In this  $5 \times 5$  puzzle, the **five numbers** are 1 through 5. The operations are usually given as part of the clues. Here, they are not. Nevertheless, each clue is associated with one of the four standard arithmetic operations.

12	12		12	
		12		
	12		12	
12			12	