WPF SUDOKU/PUZZLE GRAND PRIX 2025

ROUND 8

WPF PUZZLE GP 2025 INSTRUCTION BOOKLET

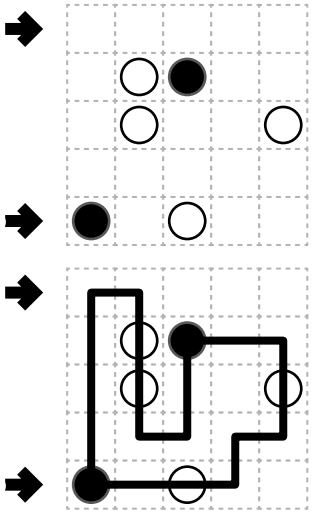
Host Country: UK

Todd Davies, Maurice Blount, Tom Coward, Tom Collyer

Special Notes: Some puzzles use faint colors but should be solvable in printed grayscale. As printers can vary, please make sure that the shades are noticable by printing this instruction booklet.

Points:		
1.	**Masyu**	**13**
2.	**Dotchi Loop**	**16**
3.	**Dotchi Loop**	**29**
4.	**Dotchi Loop**	**64**
5.	**Context**	**10**
6.	**Context**	**24**
7.	**Context**	**25**
8.	**Double or Nothing**	**12**
9.	**Double or Nothing**	**41**
10.	**Double or Nothing**	**176**
11.	**Nurikabe (Off-by-One)**	**20**
12.	**Nurikabe (Off-by-One)**	**28**
13.	**Double Choco (Off-by-One)**	**13**
14.	**Double Choco (Off-by-One)**	**25**
15.	**Double Choco (Off-by-One)**	**35**
16.	**Skyscrapers (Off-by-One)**	**5**
17.	**Skyscrapers (Off-by-One)**	**13**
18.	**Skyscrapers (Off-by-One)**	**40**
19.	**Nanro (Off-by-One)**	**9**
20.	**Nanro (Off-by-One)**	**17**
21.	**Nanro (Off-by-One)**	**40**
22.	**Word Search (Ambiguous)**	**5**
23.	**Word Search (Ambiguous)**	**11**
24.	**Word Search (Ambiguous)**	**19**
25.	**Pentominous (Ambiguous)**	**4**
26.	**Pentominous (Ambiguous)**	**23**
27.	**Pentominous (Ambiguous)**	**48**
28.	**Hydra (Ambiguous)**	**7**
29.	**Hydra (Ambiguous)**	**32**
30.	**Hydra (Ambiguous)**	**64**
31.	**Criss Cross (Ambiguous)**	**18**
32.	**Criss Cross (Ambiguous)**	**16**
33.	**Criss Cross (Ambiguous)**	**100**
34.	**Maxi Loop + Country Road (Permaculture)**	**4**
35.	**Maxi Loop + Country Road (Permaculture)**	**33**
36.	**Maxi Loop + Country Road (Permaculture)**	**53**
37.	**LITS + Putteria (Permaculture)**	**5**
38.	**LITS + Putteria (Permaculture)**	**34**
39.	**LITS + Putteria (Permaculture)**	**162**
TOTAL:		1293

1. Masyu [Tom Collyer] (13 points)

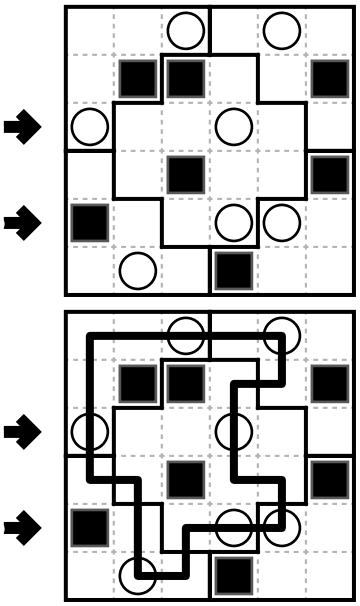


Draw a single loop that passes orthogonally through centers of cells. The loop must go through all cells with a circle. The loop cannot intersect itself or enter the same cell more than once. The loop must go straight through the cells with white circles, with a turn in at least one of the cells immediately before or after each white circle. The loop must make a turn in all the black circles, but must go straight in both cells immediately before and after each black circle.

Answer: For each designated row, enter the letter for each cell, from left to right. The letter for a cell is 'I' if the loop goes straight through the cell, 'L' if the loop turns in the cell, and 'X' if the loop does not go through the cell. You may use other characters, as long as they are distinct.

Example Answer: LLXXX,LIILX

2-4. Dotchi Loop [Todd Davies] (16, 29, 64 points)

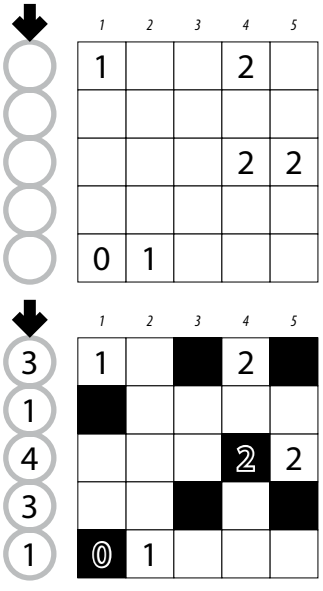


Draw a single loop that passes orthogonally through centers of cells. The loop cannot go through any cell with a black square. The loop must go through all cells with a white circle. The loop cannot intersect itself or enter the same cell more than once. For each region, either the loop must go straight through all white circles in that region, or the loop must turn at every white circle in that region.

Answer: For each designated row, enter the letter for each cell, from left to right. The letter for a cell is 'I' if the loop goes straight through the cell, 'L' if the loop turns in the cell, and 'X' if the loop does not go through the cell. You may use other characters, as long as they are distinct.

Example Answer: IXXIXX,XILILX

5-7. Context [Todd Davies] (10, 24, 25 points)



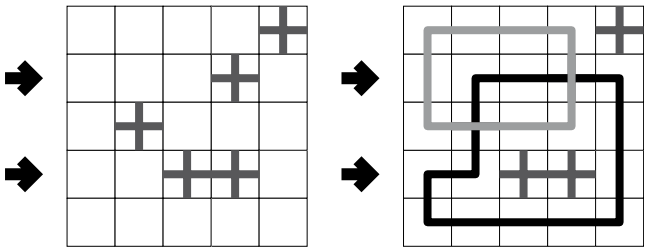
Shade some cells so that all other cells are connected orthogonally and no two shaded cells share an edge. If a numbered cell is shaded, then that number must equal the number of other shaded cells that share a corner with the numbered cell. If a numbered cell is not shaded, then that number must equal the number of shaded cells that share an edge with the numbered cell.

The numbers on top of the diagram are for Answer purposes only.

Answer: For each row from top to bottom, enter the number of the first column from the left where a shaded cell appears (the number on top of that column). Use only the last digit for two-digit numbers; e.g., use '0' if the first shaded cell appears in column 10. If none of the cells in the row are shaded, enter '0' for that row.

Example Answer: 31431

8-10. Double or Nothing [Todd Davies] (12, 41, 176 points)

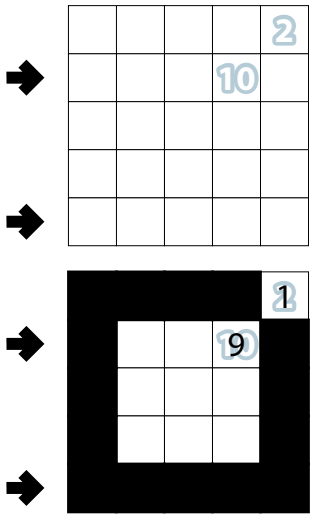


Draw two loops that pass orthogonally through centers of cells. At each cell marked with a crossing, either both loops go straight through it, or neither loop goes through it. Each other cell must be part of one of the two loops (but not the other). Neither loop can intersect itself or enter the same cell more than once.

Answer: For each designated row, enter the letter for each cell, from left to right. The letter for a cell is 'I' if a loop goes straight through the cell, 'L' if a loop turns in the cell, and 'X' if the cell is marked with a crossing. You may use other characters, as long as they are distinct.

Example Answer: ILIXL,LLXXI

11-12. Nurikabe (Off-by-One) [Todd Davies] (20, 28 points)



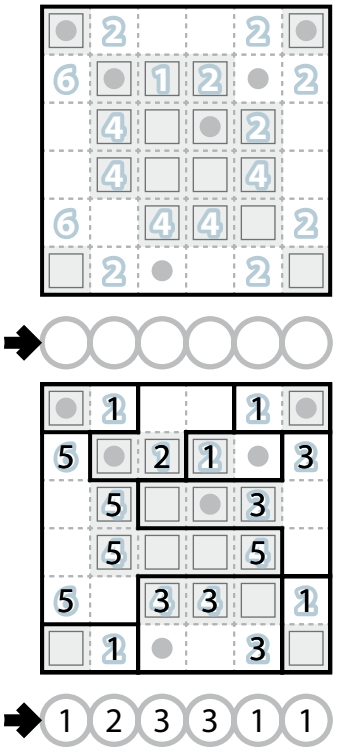
Change each given number to be 1 more or 1 less, then:

Shade some empty (non-numbered) cells black (leaving the other cells white) so that the grid is divided into non-overlapping regions; cells of the same color are considered in the same region if they are adjacent along edges. Each given number must be in a white region that has the same area in cells as that number. Each white region must have exactly one given number. All black cells must be in the same region. No 2×2 group of cells can be entirely shaded black.

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents from left to right. Use 'O' for a shaded cell and 'X' for an unshaded cell. You may use other letters or numbers, as long as they are distinct.

Example Answer: OXXXO,OOOOO

13-15. Double Choco (Off-by-One) [Todd Davies, Todd Davies, Maurice Blount] (13, 25, 35 points)



Change each given number to be 1 more or 1 less, then:

Divide the grid into regions along grid lines. Each region must contain exactly one group of orthogonally connected white cells and exactly one group of orthogonally connected gray cells. Both connected groups must form the same shape (rotations and reflections are allowed). Each number indicates the area of the group (not region) that number is in. (Regions might contain no numbers, or multiple given numbers, even in the same color.)

The squares in gray cells are only to make them distinctive in poor printing conditions. The dots in cells are only used for entering your answers.

Answer: Enter the area of the group (not region) each dot is in, reading the dots from left to right. (Ignore which row the dots are in.) Use only the last digit for two-digit numbers; e.g., use '0' for a group of size 10.

Example Answer: 123311

16-18. Skyscrapers (Off-by-One) [Todd Davies] (5, 13, 40 points)

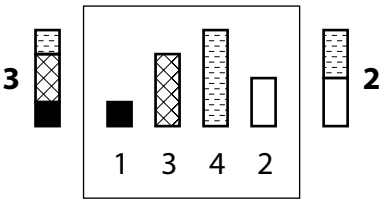
Change each given number to be 1 more or 1 less, then:

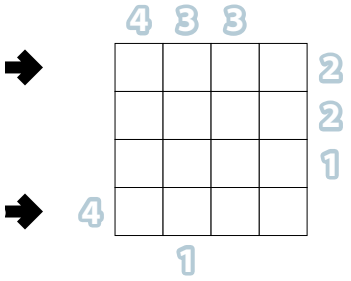
Place a number from 1 to X into each cell so that each number appears exactly once in each row and column. (X is the number of cells in each row.) Each number represents a skyscraper of its respective height. The numbers outside the grid indicate how many skyscrapers can be seen in the respective row or column from the respective direction; shorter skyscrapers are hidden behind taller ones. Some numbers may already be filled in for you.

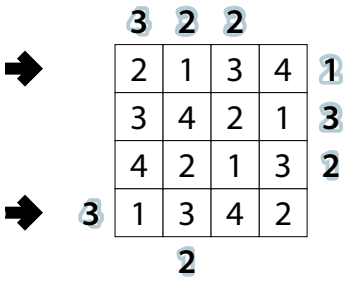
Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents from left to right. Do *not* include any numbers outside the grid.

Example Answer: `2134,1342`

Skyscraper Clue Examples







19-21. Nanro (Off-by-One) [Todd Davies, Tom Coward, Todd Davies] (9, 17, 40 points)

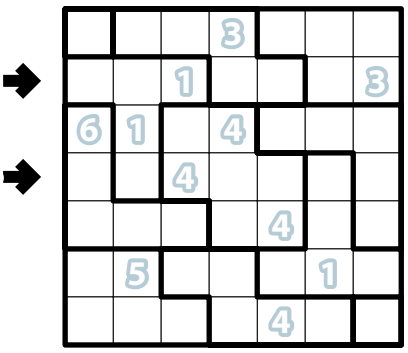
Change each given number to be 1 more or 1 less, then:

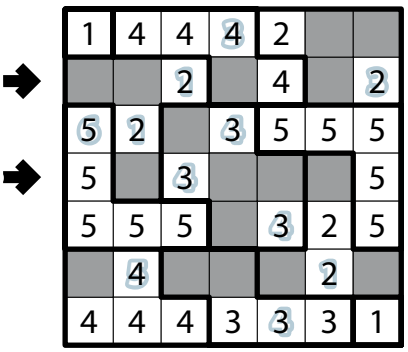
Label some cells with numbers such that each bold region contains at least one labeled cell. Each number (including any given numbers) must equal the total count of labeled cells in that region. When two labeled cells from different regions are connected orthogonally, they must contain different numbers. All labeled cells are connected orthogonally. No 2×2 group of cells can be entirely labeled. Some cells are already labeled for you.

While not required, it may be helpful to shade in the unlabeled cells (as in the displayed solution).

Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents, from left to right. Use '`X`' for an unlabeled cell. Use only the last digit for two-digit numbers; e.g., use '`0`' for a cell labeled with 10.

Example Answer: `XX2X4X2,5X3XXX5`





22-24. Word Search (Ambiguous) [Todd Davies] (5, 11, 19 points)

Locate some words from the list of words in the grid. Words always appear along a straight line in one of the standard directions.

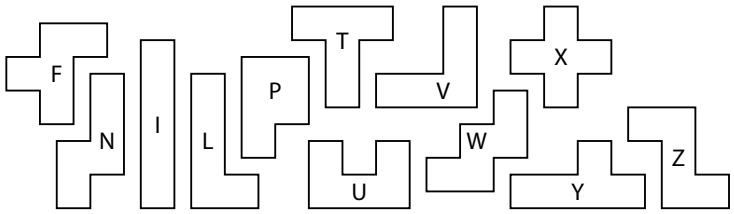
The word list has words in several rows, separated by a slash ("/"). For each row, one word will not be used.

The word list has two rectangles; these are only used for entering your answer.

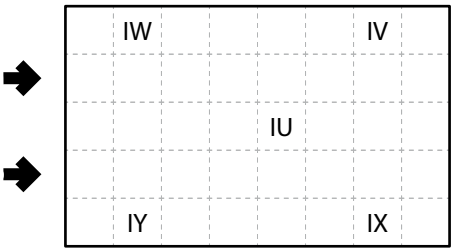
Answer: Enter all characters in the rectangle that belong to unused words, from top to bottom. (The characters will not necessarily spell anything meaningful.) If all words that overlap the rectangle are used, enter the single letter '`X`'.

Example Answer: `NA`

25-27. Pentominous (Ambiguous) [Maurice Blount, Todd Davies, Todd Davies] (4, 23, 48 points)



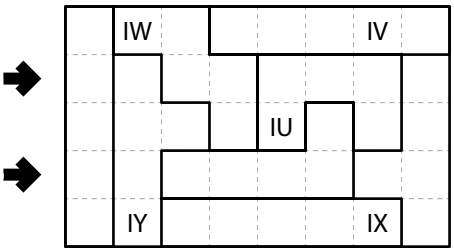
Divide the grid into pentominoes (contiguous regions of five cells) such that every cell is part of exactly one pentomino. Pentominoes of the same shape (rotations and reflections of a pentomino count as the same shape) cannot touch each other along an edge (but they may touch diagonally). Some letters are given in the grid. Each letter must be part of a pentomino with that letter's shape. It is permissible for a pentomino to contain more than one letter or no letters at all. (It is possible for some pentomino shapes to never appear in the grid, or more than once.)



If a cell contains two letters, then only one of those letters is used in the puzzle; ignore the other one.

The letter-to-shape correspondence for pentominoes has been supplied for you.

In the competition puzzle, there may be black areas that are not part of the grid.



Answer: For each designated row, enter the letter for the pentomino that each cell is part of, from left to right.

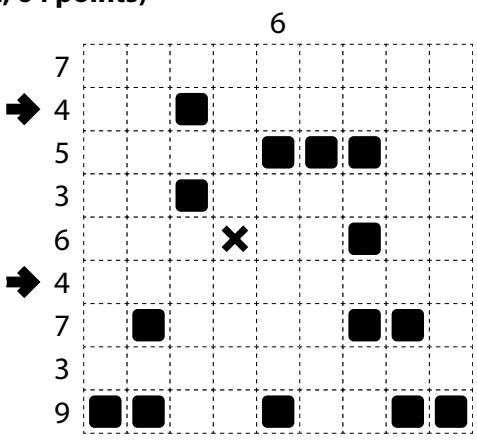
Example Answer: `IYWWUUUY,IYLLLLYY`

28-30. Hydra (Ambiguous) [Maurice Blount, Todd Davies, Todd Davies] (7, 32, 64 points)

Locate a "hydra" in the grid. The hydra is a region of orthogonally-connected cells. The hydra does not contain any 2×2 group of cells. All cells that are not part of the hydra must be connected orthogonally (through other non-hydra cells) to the edge of the grid (in other words, the hydra cannot loop or touch itself diagonally). No hydra cell can share edges with exactly four other hydra cells.

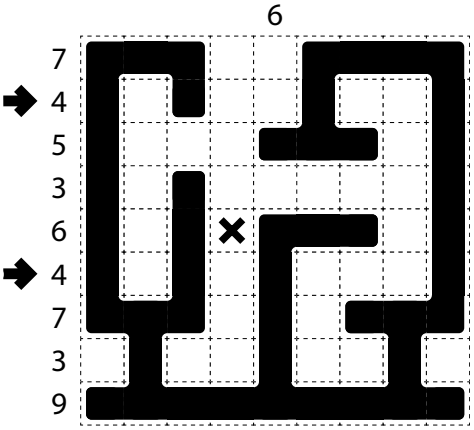
The hydra cannot go through any cells marked with '×'. Every hydra cell that shares an odd number of edges with other hydra cells is marked with a black rounded rectangle, and no other cells can have a black rounded rectangle.

Numbers outside the grid, if given, indicate how many cells in that row or column are occupied by the hydra.



Answer: For each designated row, enter its contents. Use `O` for a cell occupied by the hydra and `X` for a cell not occupied by the hydra. You may use other characters, as long as they are distinct.

Example Answer: `OXOXXOXXO,OXOXOXXXO`



31-33. Criss Cross (Ambiguous) [Todd Davies] (18, 16, 100 points)

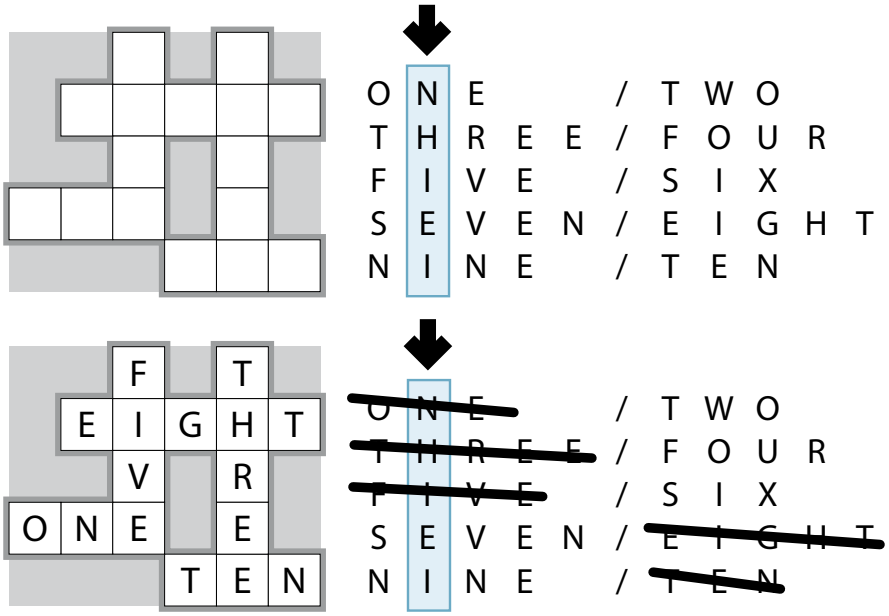
Enter some of the given words in the grid, one character per cell. When a word is in the grid, it will appear exactly once, and will either read left-to-right or top-to-bottom, with no cells before or after it. Some characters may already be given for you.

The word list has words in several rows, separated by a slash ("/"). For each row, one word will not be used.

The word list has two rectangles; these are only used for entering your answer.

Answer: Enter all characters in the rectangle that belong to unused words, from top to bottom. (The characters will not necessarily spell anything meaningful.) If all words that overlap the rectangle are used, enter the single letter 'X'.

Example Answer: EI

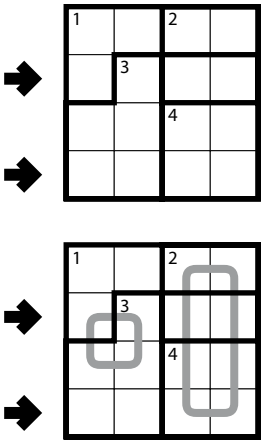


34-36. Maxi Loop + Country Road (Permaculture) [Maurice Blount] (4, 33, 53 points)

A Maxi Loop puzzle and a Country Road puzzle have been combined in the grid. Each outlined region must be in either the Maxi Loop puzzle or the Country Road puzzle (but no region is in both puzzles). Note that due to the nature of the rules, for each puzzle, all its regions must be contiguous.

Maxi Loop: Draw a single closed loop that passes orthogonally through centers of cells. The loop must go through every cell exactly once. A number given in an outlined region indicates the longest (uninterrupted) length of the loop in that region (counted by number of cells).

Country Road: Draw a single loop that passes orthogonally through centers of cells. The loop cannot intersect itself or enter the same cell more than once. The loop must enter every outlined region exactly once (that is, for each region, all used cells must be consecutive along the loop's path). Cells not in the loop cannot share a region-boundary edge (that is, any pair of unused cells that share an edge boundary must belong to the same region). If a region contains a number, then that number of cells in the region must be used by the loop. The cell that contains the number may or may not be used.

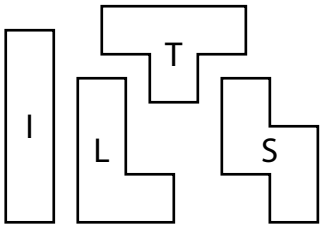


Answer: For each designated row, enter the letter for each cell, from left to right. The letter for a cell is 'I' if a loop goes straight through the cell, 'L' if a loop turns in the cell, and 'X' if no loop goes through the cell. You may use other letters or numbers, as long as they are distinct.

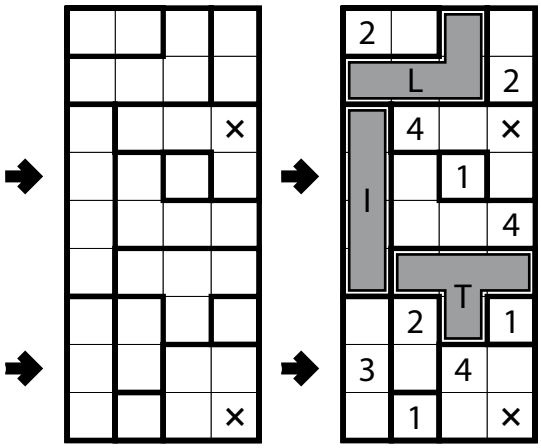
Example Answer: LLII, XXLL

37-39. LITS + Putteria (Permaculture) [Maurice Blount, Todd Davies, Todd Davies] (5, 34, 162 points)

A LITS puzzle and a Putteria puzzle have been combined in the grid. Each outlined region must be in either the LITS puzzle or the Putteria puzzle (but no region is in both puzzles). Note that due to the nature of the rules, all regions for the LITS puzzle must be contiguous.



LITS: Shade exactly four connected cells in each outlined region (with at least four cells) to form a tetromino, so that the following conditions are true: (1) All tetrominoes are connected into one large shape along their edges; (2) No 2×2 group of cells can be entirely shaded; (3) When two tetrominoes share an edge, they must not be of the same shape, regardless of rotations or reflections. (Not all four possible shapes have to be present in the grid; for example, it is possible for your solution to not have any "I" shapes.) Cells with a cross ('×') cannot be shaded.



Putteria: For each outlined region, fill in exactly one cell with a number. The number must be equal to the number of cells in that region. For each row or column, the same number cannot appear more than once. Two cells that share an edge cannot both contain numbers. Cells with a cross ('×') cannot contain a number.

A list of shapes to the letters "LITS" is provided. This is only needed for entering your answer.

Answer: For each designated row, enter the contents of each cell, from left to right. For each cell, its contents are the letter of the tetromino occupying that cell, the number in that cell, or the letter 'X' if the cell has neither a tetromino occupying or a number in it.

Example Answer: `IX1X,3X4X`