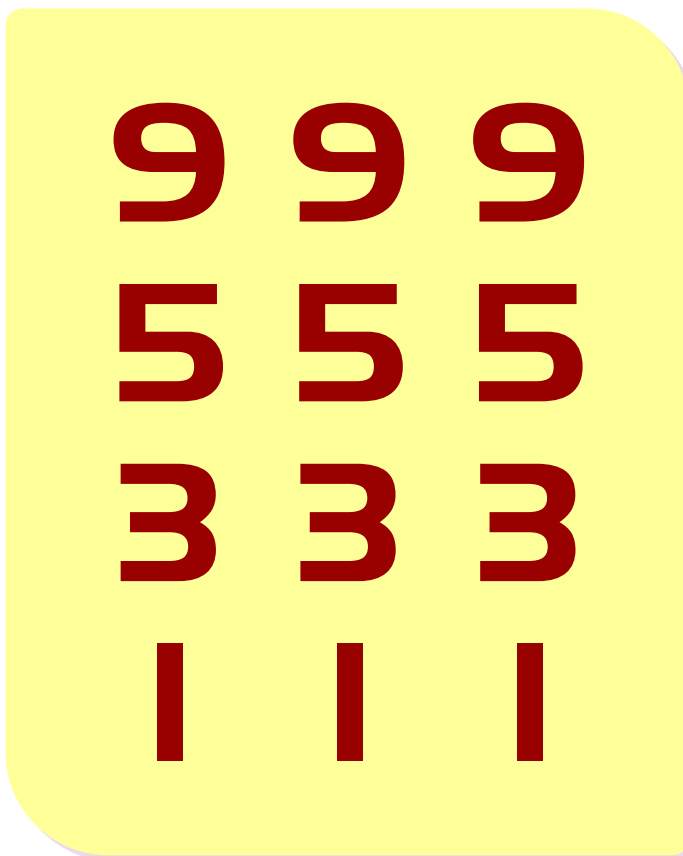


Treasure of Classic
and Modern Puzzles

Puzzles with Numbers



Six Numbers

by Martin Gardner

Write down the numbers in four rows as shown in the illustration or simply print them out.

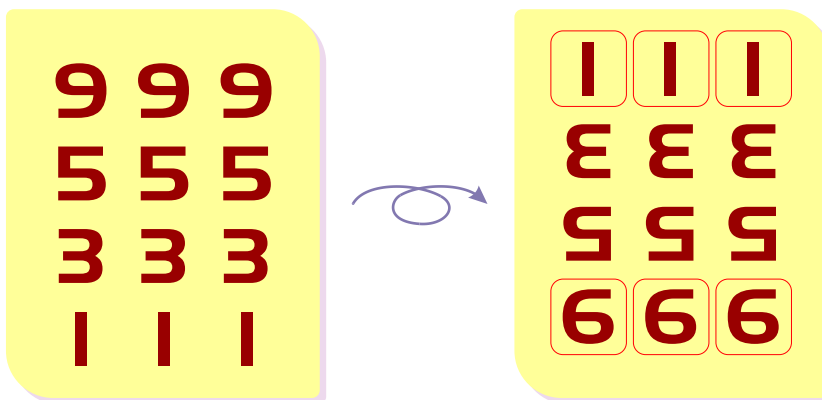
Now circle exactly six numbers from this set so that they add up to 21.

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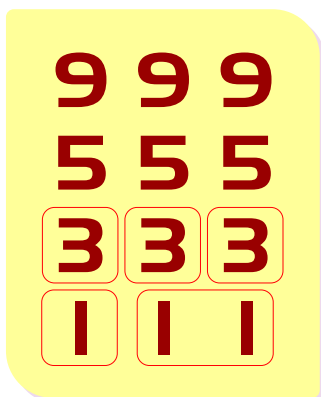
Solution 1

1



Solution 2

2



Six Numbers (solution)

Martin Gardner made this puzzle as a joke. His own answer (Solution 1) was to turn the piece of paper with the numbers upside down and then circle three 6's (that were created from 9's) and three 1's. These six numbers (6,6,6,1,1 and 1) add up exactly to 21.

But there is another, more witty answer (Solution 2) that doesn't involve turning the puzzle upside down. One reader sent this solution to Martin Gardner. All you have to do is to circle three 3's, one 1 (left or right only), and then outline the remaining adjacent 1's with a circle to create one number - 11. All these numbers (3, 3, 3, 1 and 11) will add up exactly to 21 as well!