

# The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." - Arthur Foot February 8, 2020 | Issue No. 2561



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# The Happy Broadcast

#### Sriman Goel

\*Radio chatter\*

For those of you just tuning in, you're listening to... the Happy Broadcast! In other news, we visit Chandbagh as students continue to overwork themselves while trying to secure their futures. We now hear straight from busy Doscos on this issue.

"Rut, rut, rut — bas yahi karte jana hai."

"Sorry, I can't chill, I have some Yearbook work."

'Bhai, agar college jana hai toh yeh sab karna padta hai."

"Just wait for two minutes, I've not had lunch."

"Sorry I'm late - I had to attend three meetings."

"I have to go for cricket after lunch and then have Prize Giving music practices and have to do work for the School Council after dinner and then study math."

\*Indistinct confusion\*

What you just heard were our reporters on the ground, in hopes of getting a positive quote from the community. While we were unable to find even the littlest bit of positivity in their busy lives on this occasion, we do hope we can strike a happier note the next time around.

I recently stumbled upon a vibrant website that calls itself 'The Happy Broadcast'. A unique news service, The Happy Broadcast only details the good things happening around the world. Big colourful titles read "Norway becomes first country to ban deforestation", or "Scientists develop 'prime editing' technique, which could be used to edit DNA and combat 89% of all genetic

diseases". Exploring further, as I scrolled through their positive-only news, I was thoroughly impressed by the humane initiatives people are taking the world over, trying to improve fields like science, environmental engineering and mental health. I was most surprised that we remain largely unaware about most of these things. In a world that never fails to scare and worry us with its tragic headlines and ridiculously shocking stories, The Happy Broadcast is a tiny nook of joy that allows us to remember the good things in the world. The reason I mention this is that it forced me to break out of a cycle of just 'working' and made me reflect, briefly, on the world immediately around me.

\*White noise\*

Welcome back to The Happy Broadcast! We return to our story at the beautiful campus of Chandbagh. Reports suggest that the reason for a lack of positivity and constant stress is a fear of failure and crushing expectations. We further learnt that the students cannot find the time to work comfortably. Until that happens, our reporters tell us that the average Dosco is overburdened and constantly striving towards excellence. In attempts to achieve and exceed expectations, these students have moved into overdrive and are burning the midnight oil working. The endless workhorse culture paints a dismal picture in the school. Here at The Happy Broadcast, we pride ourselves on

(Continued on Page 3)



### **APPOINTMENTS**

The following are the appointments for the year **2020-21**:

**Econocrat** 

Editor-in-Chief: Keshav Singhal

Srijan Pravas

Editor-in-Chief: Kartik Rathore Chief-of-Production: Eeshan Mehrotra Chief Designer: Vedansh Kokra

Mess Committee

Secretary: Anay Krishnan

**Library Council** 

Secretary: Raghav Kediyal

We wish them all fruitful tenures!

### **UNQUOTABLE QUOTES**

I had go to Goa.

Vivaan Mallik, been there done that.

I'm pudding in that.

Aryan Prakash, served.

I doesn't know it, but I does understand it.

Prabhav Jain, clearly not.

Do you know any unknown place in Delhi?

Kautilya Nagapodagatlapali, into the unknown.

Pass the sunny-side egg up.

Krishang Arora, \*realisation dawning\*.

I sleep 36 hours a day.

Nishith Agarwal, timeless.

### "

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.

Dr. Seuss

### PADDLING UP THE LADDER

**Table Tennis Half-Colours** were awaded to Sanyam Gupta, Aryan Kasera and Gautam Singhal. **Full Colours** were re-awarded to Shyamal Singhal.

Well done!

### KNIGHTS OF THE BOARD

The School participated in the 51st Etlantis Chess Tournament on February 2.

Tanmay Kuchhal and Aniket Khaitan secured second and third positions in the U-15 category respectively.

Kudos!

### THE READER'S CHECKLIST

Which book are you currently reading?

Shourya Agarwal: '10 Minutes 38 Seconds' in This

Strange World by Elif Shafak

**DEB:** 'The Great Agrarian Conquest: The Colonial Reshaping of a Rural World' by Neeladri Bhattacharya

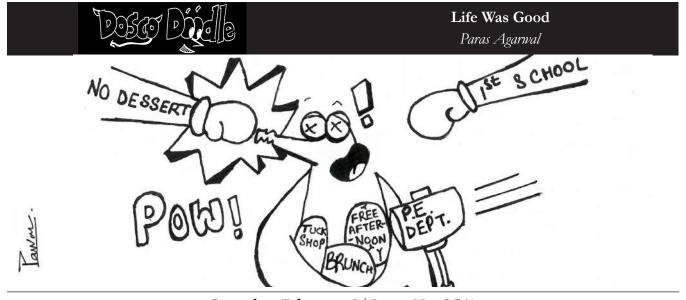
Kabir Subbiah: 'Kokoro' by Natsume Sōseki

AAQ: 'Les Misérables' by Victor Hugo

**Keshav Singhal: '**Seize the Day' by Saul Bellow **Yash Adalti: '**Shylock is My Name' by Howard Iacobson

### Around the World in 80 Words

Kirk Douglas, a Hollywood actor, died at the age of 103. Flash-floods hit drought affected areas in Eastern Australia. China allowed U.S. health experts into the country due to a WHO effort to fight the coronavirus. The US Senate acquitted Donald Trump in his impeachment trial. Uttarakhand was put on high alert, due to suspected cases of coronavirus. The Finance Ministry released the Union Budget for the year 2020-21. Tottenham Hotspurs beat Manchester City 2-0, and Liverpool beat Southampton 4-0.



(Continued from Page 1)

spreading positivity through good news, and we will do the same for these tired students. More on that later.

Everyday, I see people just going from one place to another. From the Main Building to the Main Field, from the Art School to Music School and from the CDH to the Rose Bowl. Simply going from A to B. Doing their work there. Going from B to C. Doing their work there. Endlessly repeating this cycle. This robotic routine is always about where you're going and what you're doing – how are you working efficiently and getting things off your back as fast as possible. We all do this – it's the way most of us have to work in School. But how many times have you paused to look up at the sky or at the trees on the way from one corner of campus to another? How many times have you taken a moment to relax and take a breath?

These things may seem trivial, but they mean a lot more. Our lives need not be dictated by fear and expectation, and we don't need to live just for our futures. The little things in our life matter so much more, and the present is the only time when we can feel truly alive. Maybe you think this is just another cliché about living in the moment, but sometimes we do need to remember the good people and things in our lives and embrace where we are right now.

Once again, you've been listening to The Happy Broadcast. You just heard our attempt to bring to you some positive news on concerned Doom School students. But it's time to flip the story and tell you how to spread positivity. After our thorough analysis, we conclude that these students just need to take some time out to be. Not be something or get somewhere, just be. Here's our good news for you: You can just slow down and enjoy the ride for once.

# A Night to Remember

Anant Ganapathy summarises the 62nd Grammy Awards.

Monday night was a momentous occasion for music fans around the world, because it marked music's biggest night: the Grammy Awards. The motto for 62nd Annual Grammy Awards was to "Unexpect Everything" - an apt way to describe the events that took place.

The ceremony started off with the tragic news of the death of basketball legend, Kobe Bryant, so host Alicia Keys, along with Boyz II Men, serenaded the audience with the song, It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday in Byant's honour. The night was filled with many moments of remembrance with artists such as John Legend, DJ Khalid, and Camila Cabello taking to the stage to sing tributes to musical maestros that had passed away last year.

However, the night truly belonged to one individual and her brother. Billie Eilish managed to become the youngest person and the first female artist in the history of the award show to win all awards from the general field when she won 'Best New Artist', 'Album of the Year' for her number one album, When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?, and 'Record and Song of the Year' for her hit single Bad Guy. Alongside his younger sister, Finneas O'Connell won the Grammy award for 'Producer of the Year (Non-Classical)' as well as 'Best Engineered Album', which was again won by their debut album, When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?.

Other big winners include songstress Lizzo, who won for her album *Cuz I love You* and singles *Truth Hurts* and *Jerome*. Lil Nas X won the Grammy for 'Best Pop-Duo Performance' and 'Best Music Video' for his viral song *Old Town Road*. Tyler, The

Creator took home his first ever gramophone for 'Best Rap Album' for his album *Igor*, while Nipsey Hussle won his first posthumous Grammy for 'Best Rap Performance' for his song *Racks in the Middle*, beating other contenders, including Cardi B and J Cole. Former First Lady Michelle Obama also took home a trophy for 'Best Spoken Album' for her best-selling book *Becoming*. Meanwhile, Lady Gaga continued to pick up trophies for the soundtrack of *A Star is Born*, and Beyonce took home the Grammy for 'Best Music (Film)' for the soundtrack of her Netflix documentary *Homecoming*.

Although some believe that pop sensation Ariana Grande was "snubbed" as she did not receive any hardware, she still gave a stellar performance of a medley of her hits from last year, which included 7 Rings, Thank U Next, and Imagine. Another actressturned-singer graced the Grammy stage for the first time after her overdose in 2018. Demi Lovato gave a fabulous comeback performance of her new single Anyone, which was deemed the best performance of the entire evening.



### The Battalion

#### Sai Arjun

As soon as my rival troops from Dorm Three marched into our territory, I surged through the battlefield, egged on by a rush of patriotism in my head. My dearest weapons at hand at this point were the hockey stick and the infamous "Volini Bomb". Alas! I went ahead to have my big toe stubbed into the shoe rack, instead of my enemies'. It was my foot that was in pain, not theirs. Having had gone through the experiences of an injured hero of battle, the wiser me preferred being transformed into the brains of the operation, planning a detailed attack, rather than being on the frontline of action.

Fully aware that it might cost me the lives of a few of my comrades, I sent my soldiers to war. Having my troops march to battle, I allowed myself to close my eyes. But just my luck, Dorm Three was situated right above my dorm, and that meant that I couldn't have a wink of sleep. Adding to the cacophony right above my head, was the throbbing of my injured toe; it was as if I had a heart beating in there! Oh the pain! I think I completely empathise with what it felt to be injured at war.

Now, with these two irritabilities at hand, I felt helpless. But nothing helps like some *kaccha* Maggi. As the realisation dawned upon me, I was delighted and all my pain just vanished. Finally, with some food in my stomach, and some peace in my mind, I closed my eyes slowly. And finally, 'The War' came to a peaceful end...

## AAPvengers Assemble

Abhay Jain comments on the role of social media platforms in politics.

Gone are the days when the political wars were won by preaching and giving *gyaan*; when people depended on politicians' speeches to determine where their vote would go. In this new era, election wars are fought on an entirely new front: social media. From the errant tweeting of Donald Trump to political memes from the AAP, political parties in all states and of all sizes have begun to utilise social media as a two-way platform for communicating with their voter base.

Over the years, social media has gone from a cool way to communicate with friends to a tool intricately integrated into our daily life. We have seen politicians taking advantage of this largely untapped audience and using it to their advantage. Not only have we seen instances of this abroad, with Donald Trump investing over \$20 Million in Facebook ads and garnering over a billion views, but also in India itself, where the idea of using social media to reach out to younger audiences is a very popular and successful method. A prime example of this is the Delhi election. Leading parties such as AAP and Congress have started to use pop culture to reach out to their audiences. One particular instance of the Aam Aadmi Party enticing the current generation is their using memes and edited versions of popular video games to showcase their own achievements, instead of belittling other politicians.

The AAP is campaigning by the norm that seems to be putting forward a positive campaign, and not one fuelled by allegations and abuse. The AAP also uses memes to compare itself with other large rivals such as the BJP and Congress. At the same time, the

BJP has also started a more traditional "door-to-door" campaign, in which star candidates take to the streets to woo potential voters. However, the BJP is planning to improve the cadre of its campaign with high profile additions such as Yogi Adityanath and Amit Shah going door to door and raising moving manifestos.

Parties are also amping up their campaign on social media. In this extremely intense Delhi election, even the smallest of advantages will be highly contested, and I look forward to an interesting election. As the generation of today continues to gain popularity, we will see more and more parties starting to use more modern tools to connect with the voters of tomorrow. As India waits in anticipation for the Delhi elections to conclude, we shall see if the reigning Kejri"Wall" will stand tall against rivals.



# Why Writing Matters

Devang Laddha (Ex 519-O, Batch of 2019) reflects on the importance of writing in School.

For the longest time at Doon, writing to me was presented as a mysterious art, one that was extremely ambiguous and at times meaningless. Poems never made sense, essays were graded arbitrarily and were places where you could just BS your way through, and all this made writing seem insignificant. However, having gone through my first semester of college where I have written more than 10,000 words, I now know something that I had only an inkling of in my final years at Doon: that while writing is an art, it has elements which are as scientific as math. It is scientific in that it is not arbitrary and enigmatic, but rather has codified rules and needs the constant rigorous practice any science demands. After all, words are precise and incisive instruments.

Before explaining why I consider writing to be scientific, I want to consider another question: why does writing matter? Outside of writing mandatory assignments and punishment essays why should you care about writing? The answer is that writing, and moreover, language, gives you the capacity of thought. One's capacity for complex thought relies on one's ability to label different thoughts through language and organise these thoughts using linguistic structures. To articulate any thought we have, we need words. This capacity for thought is what allows complex social relations, science, innovation, technology and all the things we are proud of. Educational institutions around the world understand the importance of language. At every college, the first thing you learn is how to write. It is an essential skill we all require. Not considering language to be important is a danger you take at your own risk.

Despite language being so important, most of us are not terribly excited or engaged with language and writing. A big factor is, I believe, that most of our interactions with writing are often confusing and challenging. Understanding what subject-verb agreement is, is by no means the most exciting thing on the planet. Moreover, the larger problem is that it is not intuitive. Language is an artificial structure which we have to engage with and learning all the made-up rules and exceptions is challenging. However, these structures are important and moreover in them one can start to get a sense why language is scientific. These linguistic structures are defined frameworks which you must obey. You cannot escape them, similar to how you cannot escape the rules of trigonometry in Math. Mastering language, like any other subject, requires diligent practice and patience.

Once you dive into understanding linguistic structures you understand that rather than being

arbitrary, they are deliberate constructions. Conveying meaning is a complex process and requires well defined structures. Each word means something different, even if they seem similar. If they meant the same thing, there would not be another word for it. Using the right word in a sentence is akin to using the right equation to solve an integral. Understanding this nuance enables one to convey meaning effectively.

### One's capacity for complex thought relies on one's ability to label different thoughts through language

Furthermore, while understanding how language works might be difficult, this learning unlocks a new word of possibility. This is because while writing might be like science in terms of how structures work and how deliberate it is, a crucial point of difference is that writing allows you the flexibility and imagination like no science. Having understood the rules of language, you can start to play with these rules. You can bend, twist and sometime even break them. This freedom allows you to create and convey meaning in multitudinous ways. For me, being able to write has allowed me to think in much more complex ways. Moreover, it has allowed me to say what I want in the most exact and precise manner. Language is the only tool we have to communicate with each other and understanding it allows you to be heard and understood so much better.

Writing for any individual, especially as a student is a powerful tool. It is challenging, difficult and at times an infuriating endeavor but the beauty and potential one unlocks by mastering this art is boundless. It is a skill that all of us would benefit from us and school is one of the best places to practice it. I would encourage everyone to write a few hundred words each day. For the much more practical person, I would recommend start writing because you are going to need it in life, and in college. Being able to construct complex thoughts in papers and dissertations is something you won't be able to escape, especially the bunch applying abroad. Instead of getting whammed in college, I would suggest start writing now. Take the help of those around you and start building this skill. Writing is a critical skill and the truth is, you are going to need

### Letter to the Editor

This letter is in response to 'Courting Chaos', written by Adit Chatterjee in Issue 2560. The article described why climate change legislation is flawed and will remain so due to regulatory capture, wherein large corporations have considerable influence over decision-making processes. I agree that regulatory capture is a problem that prevents the passage of positive legislation, especially that which pertains to climate change. However, letting policy and legislation be decided "by the collective power of our voters" is not only idealistic, but it will probably also lead to a worse outcome for climate change legislation.

The inaccuracies, though, do not end here. In an almost epiphanic realisation, the author decided that voters must force policy down the throats of the large corporations where these voters are often employed. Through this policy, he claims that we as consumers "can preserve our comfort". This is problematic because, by enforcing high-cost sustainable methods of production, large corporations will be forced to lay some of the people they employ off due to higher costs. These people will now have to sacrifice comfort, not out of choice, but out of necessity. Even if they don't lay off employees, these large corporations will still pass on their higher costs to consumers in the form of higher prices. Though the writer may be able to afford these price rises, what about the masses?

Consumers and large corporations exist in a system of symbiosis. Corporations produce goods and services of their own volition, and consumers buy these same goods and services, which benefit them and allow the corporations to continue profitably producing them, willingly. However, the existence of such a system directly contradicts the author's claim that "We have no obligation to protect these industries". As consumers, we do have an obligation to producers. This is of course limited to the extent at which we use the services these producers provide. However, the author concedes that we "cannot live without these staples of a consumerist society". As long as we are reliant on large corporations, we owe them an obligation.

Apart from the fact that it is near-impossible to have citizens vote on every piece of legislation (which is why our form of democracy exists), giving the power to make decisions to voters is an unwise decision. To prove this claim, I want to divide society into three broad sections: the lower working class, middle class, and upper class. It's interesting to notice how none of these three strata would vote for legislation that would effectively deal with climate change, such as a simple carbon tax.

The archetypal lower class person looks like a bluecollar worker who earns a daily wage. Spending on energy and other necessities form a large portion of their disposable income, so an increase in the carbon tax will increase their expenses substantially. An increase in the carbon tax is also likely to increase the costs of large corporations, who will therefore be forced to reduce the number of people they employ in order to "maximise profit", which the author agrees is their primary objective. Therefore, the common man/woman may be laid off as a consequence of an increase in carbon tax. Why, then, would they vote in favour of such a policy?

Let us assume that the stereotypical middle class woman looks like a white-collar or pink-collar employee who accepts that climate change is a pressing issue that needs solving. However, she is still unlikely to vote for such legislation simply because, quoting the author, she "simply cannot live without these staples of a consumerist society". Due to a rise in the carbon tax, she will have to sacrifice the pleasure of "basking in the warmth of her centrally-heated home". Why, then, would she vote in favour of such a policy?

Your common man/
woman may be laid off as a
consequence of an increase in
carbon tax. Why, then, would
they vote in favour of such a
policy?

Our last stratum of society is the upper class, who the author so unsympathetically portrays as the enemy that hinders the passage of positive climate change legislation because he only cares about his corporation's "profit-maximising" objectives., which an increase in the carbon tax would harm. If the writer himself has given up on him, why then would he vote in favour of such a policy?

Our decision-making processes may be flawed and our politicians may be self-interested but organic change is taking place. Politicians like Elizabeth Warren are attempting to mitigate regulatory capture by accepting only 'grass-roots funds'. Current climate change legislation may be flawed, but it is improving; giving the power to decide to the people would only reverse the progress we've already made. It'll be worse for climate change, and worse for the world, which is why it's not something we should do.

Regards, Kabir Subbiah

# The Call of the Wild

Yuvan Kamdar talks about an unknown activity that takes place in School.

This is something new to most of you, but on Saturday nights, five boys – each armed with their tools – go for a night's expedition.

'Owling' is basically looking for owls on campus. There are seven different types of owls and owlets in School: the Barn Owl, the Indian Scops Owl, the Brown Hawk Owl, the Spotted Owlet, the Oriental Scops Owl, the Jungle Owlet and the Asian Barred Owlet. Spotting owls in the night is an absolutely enchanting experience, and I hope that after reading this article some of you will join me to experience the 'owlsome' activity.

It is really fun being part of such an experienced, enthusiastic, and determined team, comprising Vijayaditya Singh Rathore, Vedant Gattani, Avi Sahni, Karan Agarwal and myself.

The night starts with Vedant calling for the owl, and soon we can hear the owl coming closer. It is an amazing experience, with the one owl whose wing-flaps you can hardly hear flying across the sky, and some silhouettes of trees against the moonlight.

I really enjoy the tranquillity of the night. The complete silence all around – only occasionally broken by some Red-Wattled Lapwings and by Vedant - has the owls coming closer to each other. In some houses, we can hear the sounds of boys and the television. When someone (usually Vijay) spots the owl, I take out my torch and shine it on the owl. This way the owl or owlet gets stunned, but does not fly away. It sounds easy, but is a really tough job. One small mistake, just a slight quiver, involves the risk of the owl or owlet flying away. Avi then starts with the pictures. Avi and his camera can never be separated. This is very useful, because if we are not able to identify the owl

or owlet, we look at the picture and use the bird-book to cross-check the species. Meanwhile, Vijay stares at the owl, seemingly lost in his own world, and a big smile appears on his face as he quizzes us on which bird it is and why it is this one and not another. In short, we are a very passionate and enthusiastic team.

Over the past few years (from what I have heard, since I have only been in school for two years), the owl population has been steadily decreasing. Around four to five years ago, if someone went owling, there was a 100% guarantee of seeing at least two to three Brown Hawk Owls, but now you hardly ever see them. I have never even seen them once, despite having gone owling in School for the past one and a half years. This just goes to show how much the environment has changed. The School was once in the jungle, but now the jungle is to be found in School. The foliage in the khud is slowly receding, and the bird and animal populations are plummeting. Just in the last year, there has been a very noticeable change in the flora and fauna on campus. After noticing this change, the Environment Committee was formed to overlook and control, or try to stop, these changes. We have spoken to the ground malis, and with their help we are trying to get rid of exotic and invasive species of trees and plants, and replace them with indigenous species.

The whole point of this article is to make everyone aware of what else is happening in School, and what some members of our community are doing to save its flora and fauna. If you wish to, you can join us in this fight. If you are interested in owling and birdwatching, then you are welcome to join us.

| Poetry |

### The Beauty in Black

### Rohan Taneja

Clad in black, they walk down the street
Their eyes dark and swollen, their voice so sweet.
Their faces white, like milk so pure
Yet stained red with a pain, that knows no door.
Their smile and laugh is so clean
Yet sad to say, it cannot be seen.
They are dwing pines among a pink spring bloom

They are dying pines among a pink spring bloom Still their reach is no more than a mop and a broom.

They are as alive as an eagle soaring the skies, Yet as dead as a truth among a thousand lies.

They live in the dream of soaring high,
But have nothing. Nothing to live by...

### Microfiction

#### Eeshan Mehrotra

#### All Sales are Final

He plopped his broken heart down on the counter and angrily demanded a refund.

"I can't help you," said the clerk. "Read the fine print in your contract. They all break at some point.

#### Death and I

"Death knocked on my door, asking for my love, so I gave him my eyes and he left.

"A year later Death returned, asking for my love, so I gave him my voice and he left.

"Today I heard myself calling from the doorstep. She ran out to greet me, but went inside with Death instead."

# The Week Gone By

#### **Keshav Singhal**

Beginning this week, the Dosco regiment has been battling on with sheer zeal and fervour to defeat its chief enemy: lethargy. The battle against the bitterly cold mornings in order to turn up on time for their first schools is fought daily. The new Army Chief returned to the barracks, hopefully for a longer period this time. The newly promoted senior boys though were engaged in their induction program, which, amongst some leadership activities, included forced fitness drills!

While the drills took place on one corner of the Main Field,

the Junior Inter-House Cricket Competition resumed on the pitch, leaving out a major chunk of the ground for our heroic warriors who are pre-preparing for an arduous season that lies right ahead of them. These men, however, suffered a blow early in the season as the Mess Committee decided to deprive them of essential nutrition; hopefully, with time, some special provision will be arranged for them soon. To make this week even more uneventful, the resurfacing of the tennis courts began and activities slowed to a stop. Adding colour to our otherwise colourless lives were the Yellow Cards which were generously bestowed upon some unlucky souls earlier this week; much to these boys' grouse, though, a day's break share was missed as they had to spend a break listening to some advice doled out by (pastorally) caring adults.

Wednesday Assembly jogged our memories as we realised how we, as Doscos, are united under a single identity, and also made us acknowledge the responsibility that we all shoulder towards the community. Encouraged by this speech were members of our Choir and Orchestra, who have begun to practise for the biggest upcoming event in School with enthusiasm and passion, so that we can bid a memorable farewell to another batch. But don't be mistaken, my friends, as the time is not ripe for farewells or academics yet; in fact, it is the time of roses and chocolates for Valentine's Day is around the corner! A word of advice though: don't be disappointed if you can't find a Valentine, for it rarely ends well!

### Sudoku

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Source: https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/sudoku/

### FUN FACT

Sudoku is misconceived to be a Japanese game. It was originally invented by Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler, and reworked by American architect Howard Garns.

The game was only popularised by the Japanese.

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ε	8	Þ	7	L	9	Ι	S	6
τ	L	6	S	٤	8	9	Þ	7
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The views expressed in articles printed are their authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Weekly or its editorial policy.

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