



# Search engines and web spiders

Search engines find information on websites by sending out many tiny programs that visit the websites and report back on interesting and useful things they find. These programs are called spiders, or web crawlers. The job of the web spiders is to find as much interesting information as they can, but not too much – just finding everything on a page will send back much too much information. Imagine doing that for every website that exists!

The task for this worksheet is to practice being a web spider! On the next two pages you'll find two pretend websites, based on real articles with interesting information buried in them. Your job as a web spider is to look at these websites and extract all of the interesting information. Can you read the articles and find the most important **key words**? You should also look for **web links**, these point towards pages you should possibly look at next.

Here are some tips for being a web spider:

- You only want to record the most important words in a sentence, or even a paragraph. Try underlining these.
- Better still, can you find what you think are the 10 most important words on a web page?
- Don't forget to record links to new pages to explore another time. The pretend links on the pages in this worksheet are underlined.
- Not all of the links are interesting – some websites contain boring links at the bottom that are not helpful for people searching. Can you spot these?

After having a look, ask other people what words they found. Did you all agree? Did you or anyone else miss any important words?

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## The Raspberry Pi computer goes on general sale

A credit-card sized computer designed to help teach children to code has gone on sale for the first time.

The Raspberry Pi is a bare-bones, low-cost computer created by volunteers mostly drawn from Universities and the UK tech industry.

Sold without keyboard or monitor, or even a case, the Pi has drawn interest from educators and enthusiasts.

Supporters hope the machines could help improve the programming skills of school pupils in the UK.

Ebon Upton, who works at the [Raspberry Pi Foundation](#) in Cambridge, said "It has been six years in the making; the number of things that had to go right for this to happen is enormous. I couldn't be more pleased,"

### School tools

The government is hoping this, and other similar devices, can be used to teach computing in schools, with a greater emphasis on skills like programming. In a speech outlining those changes, a member of parliament said that devices like the Pi could play an important role in new kinds of computer classes.

"Initiatives like the Raspberry Pi scheme will give children the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of programming," they said.

"This is a great example of the cutting edge of education technology happening right here in the UK." More on what the government said can be read on their [news article](#).

The first version of the Pi will cost £22. A cheaper £16 version will go on sale later in the year.



The Raspberry Pi is on sale now for £22. It can be bought at the Pi Foundation [Online Shop](#)

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## Why are Su Doku so popular?

It's a hugely popular puzzle, and it doesn't even need a computer!

Su Doku began appearing in newspapers a few years ago, and versions can now be found in almost all papers, magazines and websites too. At its peak, it's been as popular as the Rubik's cube craze of the 1980s! Why is Su Doku so popular?



A Rubik's cube

For anyone who doesn't know, the puzzle is a simple-looking grid of nine rows by nine, split into nine boxes, each containing nine squares. The goal is to fill in the remaining numbers, such that every row, column, and square contains one of each number from 1 – 9. It looks easy but it can be extremely difficult, with puzzles with almost no starting numbers being really challenging.

It's this website's most popular puzzle, regular user Jack said "I do a puzzle every morning, and another if I get the chance before bed!". "I know if I've got a busy day ahead I won't even look at a difficult one, because once you are hooked into it you have to keep going," says Sam, who plays about three times a week.

Where did it come from?

Su Doku was introduced to the UK by Wayne Gould, a retired judge from New Zealand who lives in Hong Kong. He provides his puzzles for free to newspapers in 11 countries from the United States to Slovakia, and will soon add a publication in the former Soviet state of Georgia to the list.

The puzzle originated in Japan. Su means number in Japanese, and Doku translates to solitary. This refers to the fact that proper Su Doku puzzles only have one possible solution.

Mr Gould is particularly pleased that the government-produced Teachers magazine recommended last month that Su Doku be used as brain exercises in classrooms.

"It's good for getting the children to explain and discuss the logic," says consultant editor, and part time secondary teacher, Steve McCormack, "for dealing with numbers and for organisational skills."

If you'd like to have a go yourself, have a look at our Su Doku puzzles using the link above!

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

A medium level difficulty Su Doku. Experts can solve these puzzles in just a few minutes!