

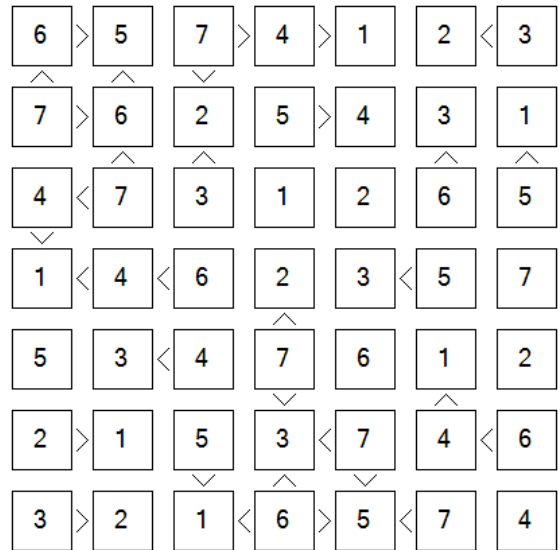
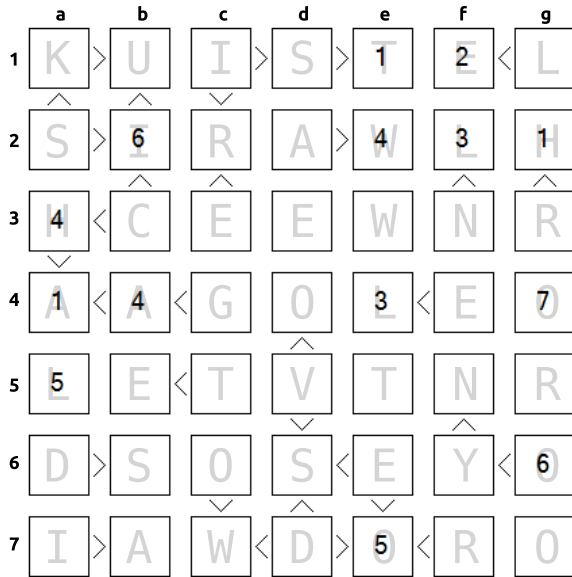
THE FUTOSHIKI KICK

This is a rare example of a metapuzzle that starts by telling you what to do. You get a Nikoli-style logic puzzle where every answer from round 2 or 3 gives you two more of the given numbers.

Several combinations of four answers lead you to a unique solution that is very difficult to find. With all seven answers, you get an easy puzzle.

One pitfall is that the answer "DISAPPOINT" gives you wrong information and even conflicts in length with the answer "FISHING ROD", which is one clue that "DISAPPOINT" is the round 3 answer that you need to change.

The futoshiki and its solution are shown below.



When you read all the 1s from top to bottom, then all the 2s, and so on, you get:
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So the answer is "ALLELES".