

Not Sudoku

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We are going to make up our own multiplication tables for letters.* For example, instead of using 1, we will write e for the quantity that doesn't change something when it multiplies it.† The rules are:

- For every g , e times g (which we write as eg) is g . Also, $ge = g$.
- For every g , there is some h so that $gh = e$ and also $hg = e$. (h might be the same as g .)
- So inside our tables, in each row no letter appears twice. Also, in each column no letter appears twice.
- Finally, multiplication is *associative*: $(fg)h = f(gh)$.

1. Fill in the blank space in this multiplication table, following the rules.

What is a times a : $aa = ?$

x	e	a
e	e	a
a		e

2. Fill in the blank spaces in this multiplication table, following the rules.

What is aa ?

What is ab ?

What is ba ?

What is $abba$?

x	e	a	b
e	e	a	b
a	a		
b	b		

* These are *Cayley tables* for *finite groups*.

† e comes from "*Einheit*", which means "unit" in German.



3. Fill in the blank spaces in each of these 4 letter multiplication tables, following the rules:

<i>x</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
<i>e</i>	<i>e</i>			
<i>a</i>		<i>e</i>		
<i>b</i>				<i>e</i>
<i>c</i>			<i>e</i>	

<i>x</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
<i>e</i>	<i>e</i>			
<i>a</i>		<i>e</i>		
<i>b</i>			<i>e</i>	
<i>c</i>				<i>e</i>

4. Fill in the blank spaces in this 6 letter multiplication table, following the rules:

<i>x</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>f</i>
<i>e</i>	<i>e</i>					
<i>a</i>		<i>e</i>				
<i>b</i>			<i>e</i>			
<i>c</i>				<i>e</i>		
<i>d</i>						<i>e</i>
<i>f</i>					<i>e</i>	

What is *ab*?
 What is *ba*?
 What is *abba*?
 What is *cafe*?

