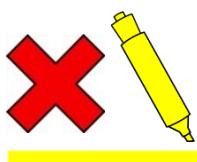


PROBLEM SOLVING STRATEGIES



What's Important

Sometimes problems give you more information than you need. Identifying what is important and what is not needed can help to solve the problem.

Step 1: Highlight the important information.

Step 2: Cross out the information that is not needed.



Look For a Pattern

Sometimes looking for a pattern in items, numbers or events can make it easier to solve a problem.

Step 1: Look for a pattern in the way the numbers are changing.

Step 2: Continue the pattern to solve the problem.



Estimate, Check and Improve

Sometimes you can make an informed estimate of the answer to a problem then check if your estimate is reasonable. If you're not close the first time, improve your thinking and check again.

Step 1: Read the problem carefully.

Step 2: Determine a reasonable estimate for the answer.

Step 3: Check if your estimate is correct.

Step 4: If not, use what you have learned to improve your estimate and check again.

Step 5: Continue to adjust your estimate & check it until you find the correct answer.



Show the Problem Using Numbers or Symbols

Sometimes using numbers and symbols helps us to solve the problem in a faster, easier way.

Step 1: Write a number sentence.

Step 2: Solve using Mathematical Conventions.



Draw a Picture

Sometimes drawing a picture or a diagram helps you to 'see' the problem more clearly and easily.



Use Materials or Act It Out

Sometimes using actions or materials can illustrate the problem and help solve it.

Step 1: Select objects to match parts of the problem.

Step 2: Arrange the objects for one possible solution.



Use a Table

Sometimes if you organise your information into rows and columns, you can see all the possibilities.

Step 1: Decide how you will show the information

Step 2: Work back through the problem.



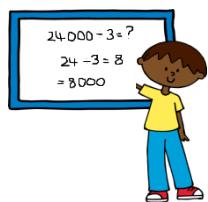
Work Backwards

Sometimes you may know the end result, but don't know the starting point.

You can begin at the end of the problem and work backwards.

Step 1: Start with the information you've been given.

Step 2: Work back through the problem.



Simplify

Sometimes we can use smaller numbers to simplify problems.

Step 1: Change larger numbers into smaller, more manageable numbers.

Step 2: Complete problem with the smaller numbers.

Step 3: Use the same method with the larger numbers.