

Problem Solving Strategies

Write a Number Sentence

$$+ 4 =$$

Choose this strategy when you know that you need to add, subtract, multiply or divide. Use numbers and symbols to show the words in the problem.

Work Backwards



Choose this strategy when a problem tells what happens at the end and asks what happened at the beginning.

Find a Pattern



Choose this strategy when a problem asks what number comes next in a list. Or choose it to find what shape comes next in a design.

Make an Organized List



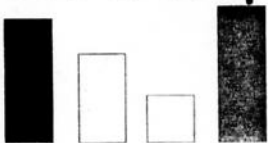
Choose this strategy when a problem asks about how things can be combined. An organized list shows all the possible combinations.

Solve a Simpler Problem



Choose this strategy to solve problems that have several steps or large numbers. Break up the problem into smaller steps or numbers that are easier.

Use a Graph



Choose this strategy when a problem asks you to compare amounts. It is easy to see answers when you look at a bar graph, pictograph or line graph.

Guess and Check



Choose this strategy when there is no clear way to solve a problem. Guess the answer. Then use the facts in the problem to check your guess. Keep guessing and checking until your answer is correct.

Act It Out



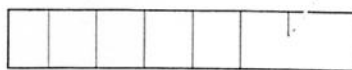
Choose this strategy when you can act out the problems using counters or other objects.

Use Logical Reasoning



Choose this strategy when you need to compare a lot of facts to get the answer. Study the facts one at a time. It often helps to write the facts down or put them on a chart.

Draw a Picture



Choose this strategy when seeing a picture of the problem will help you solve it.

Make a Table

\$.25	.50	.75
🍎	1	2	3

Choose this strategy when you need to compare numbers. Use the columns and rows in the table to help you organize information.