

Solving the Problems with Problem Solving

The Pre-Game

1. Read the question.
2. Do you understand what the words mean?
3. Underline key words in the problem that help explain what you just read.
4. What is going on and what is the goal of the problem?

The Game Plan

1. Read the question with your “math goggles” on.
2. Circle key words that help with your analysis.
3. Represent the problem somehow.
4. What is the most important thing I need to solve this problem?

The Game

1. Try your strategy out. Substitute into your strategy.

The Post-Game

1. Check your solution. Does it make sense?
2. If it does, great! If not, try a new game plan out.

DEEPER STRUCTURE

“[Word problems] are like onions, donkey.” – Shrek.

- Chart ©
- Manipulatives (M)
- Translation (T)
- Diagram (D)
- Pattern Recognition (P)
- Retrieval/Have I Seen This Problem Before? (H)