

# POLYA'S APPROACH FOR SOLVING ANY MATH PROBLEM

## STEP 1: UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM

Read the entire problem.

Underline key words.

What is the problem asking you to do?

What information do you need?

What do you need to find out?

What should the answer look like?

## STEP 2: DEVELOP A PROBLEM SOLVING STRATEGY

Have you seen a problem like this before?

If yes, how did you solve the previous problem?

If no, use a proven strategy from your problem solving toolkit.

Use a formula

Simplify the problem

Draw a picture

Look for a pattern

Eliminate wrong answers

Guess and check

## STEP 3: DO THE STRATEGY

Show all work! Do not erase anything.

## STEP 4: CHECK YOUR ANSWER TO SEE IF IT IS REASONABLE AND ACCURATE