

Solving Word Problems

Step 1:
READ the Problem!
(in fact, read it twice)
Look for clues
Extract key information

Step 2:
Identify the question.
Figure out what the
problem is asking

Step 3:
You need a plan.
Stop and THINK.
Never just start doing random calculations
until you have a strategy based on the info
you are given and what you are asked to find

Step 4:
Carry out your plan.
Make diagrams, write equations,
solve equations, make calculations,
make graphs...etc.
Keep things organized and clear.

Step 5:
Identify your final answer.
Go back and look at the question.
Were you able to answer the
question that was asked?

Step 6:
CHECK YOUR ANSWER!
Don't do all that work and then not
take a moment to look over your answer:
Check your answer if you can.
Work backward.
Ask yourself if your answer makes sense.

Step 7:
**Write out your answer in a
sentence with proper units.**
Make sure your answer is clear and you have
included the correct units such as feet,
inches, mm, cm, square miles, liters, dollars, etc.

No

Yes

Answer
Doesn't
Make
Sense

Answer
Makes
Sense