



## Four Steps to Problem Solving



### Step 1. Understand the problem

- Does the problem give you enough information? Too much information?
- What is the question you are being asked?
- What will your answer look like?

### Step 2. Plan how to solve the problem; choose a strategy

- Draw a picture or diagram
- Find a pattern
- Make an organized list
- Make a table or chart
- Solve a simpler/smaller problem
- Trial and error
- Experimenting
- Acting out the problem
- Working backwards
- Writing an equation
- Using deduction

### Step 3. Carry out the plan

- Use the strategy to arrive at the answer to the problem

### Step 4. Look back

- Did you answer the question you were asked?
- Is the answer reasonable? Does it make sense?