

KEYS TO SUCCESS IN MATH SUPERSTARS



1. Read each problem carefully and with understanding.

Read the problem twice from beginning to end. Trying to solve a problem without understanding it would be like jumping into the deep end of the pool without knowing how to swim. Ask yourself these questions to help understand the problem better:

- What do I need to find out?
- What information do I know?
- Do I have all the information I need to solve this problem?

2. Make a Plan

After you decide what you need to find out, decide how to go about discovering the answer. The problem solving session with your teacher should have exposed you to some possible strategies for the harder problems on your worksheet. If you do your worksheet as soon as possible after this session you will be more likely to remember what was presented in class. Some possible ways to solve the problem include acting it out, drawing a picture, looking for a pattern, guessing and checking, working backwards from the end result, making a list, table or chart, and using logical reasoning. Identify the correct math operation to solve the problem.

3. Solve the Problem

Use the strategy you decided was best to solve the problem. Use the information from the problem. Make sure to **SHOW YOUR WORK**. Try to do the problems on your own. However, if you get stuck, ask your parents for help. Make sure they initial the problem if they do help you.

4. Check to Be Sure Your Answer Makes Sense

Check your answer. Does it make sense? Check to make sure your answer is not unreasonable. Estimation is an important skill. If you expected the answer to be about 400 and you come up 2,000, chances are you did something wrong. Re-check your addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. Sometimes we all make sill mistakes. Read the problem again to be sure you answered the question that was asked. If a problem asks you to identify the fruit you are most likely to randomly select from a bowl, the answer isn't 32 or 5/9. It's probably "an apple" or "a banana." Sometimes it's good to re-check the answers the next day when you've had a chance to "clear your mind."

5. Try Not to Get Behind

It's easier to keep up if you do a worksheet each week. If you do the problems soon after the Math Superstar session the easier they will be. If you do get behind, don't fret. Do two lessons (the current lesson and one of the ones you missed) each week until you catch up. You'll soon be back in the game learning new problem-solving techniques that will be a big help as you continue to go through school and beyond.

Look for the KEYS in Word Problems

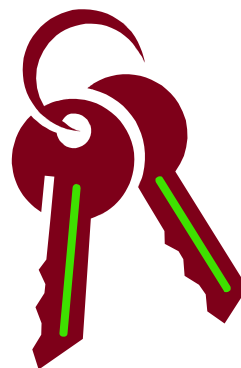


ADD, if you read

Sum
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All Together
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SUBTRACT, if you read

Remainder
Difference
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MULTIPLY, if you read

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DIVIDE, if you read

Quotient
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