How to Learn Mathematics/How to Study Mathematics /How to Succeed in Exams

Learn

- Preview
- Drill
  - Footy game analogy
  - Homework habit
  - Habitually
- Research
  - Where does it fit
  - Where is it used
- Write tips, use colour
- Talk about it
- Use the metalanguage

Study

- Start early
  - Go over paper from last term
  - Have summaries /posters done
- Notes format
  - Written
  - Examples
- Past papers
  - Find holes
  - Different types of questions
- Group work
- How to use a textbook to study
  - Examples
  - Review sections

Exams

- Technique –
  - Quick scan of the test
  - Do what you know/like first
- Problem solving
  - Guess and check
- Resilience
- Examples
- Look at answers for nonsense

Studying Math is Different from Studying Other Subjects

- Math is learned by **doing** problems. Do the homework. The problems help you learn the formulas and techniques you do need to know, as well as improve your problem-solving prowess.

- A word of warning: Each class builds on the previous ones, all semester long. You must keep up with the Instructor: attend class, read the text and do homework every day. Falling a day behind puts you at a disadvantage. Falling a week behind puts you in deep trouble.

- A word of encouragement: Each class builds on the previous ones, all semester long. You're always reviewing previous material as you do new material. Many of the ideas hang together. Identifying and learning the key concepts means you don't have to memorize as much.

Studying for a Math Test

**Everyday Study is a Big Part of Test Preparation**

Good study habits throughout the semester make it easier to study for tests.

- **Do** the homework when it is assigned. You cannot hope to cram 3 or 4 weeks worth of learning into a couple of days of study.

- On tests you have to solve problems; homework problems are the only way to get practice. As you do homework, make lists of formulas and techniques to use later when you study for tests.

- Ask your Instructor questions as they arise; don't wait until the day or two before a test. The questions you ask right before a test should be to clear up minor details.