

## Steps to Problem Solving

E2F5

## 1) Understand the problem:

- Does the problem give you enough info? too much info?
- What is the question being asked?
- What should your solution look like?

## 2) Plan how to solve the problem:

- Select strategy/strategies to try  
(there may be more than one that is successful)

- draw a picture/diagram
- make an organized list or table
- solve a simpler related problem
- find a pattern
- guess & check
- experimenting
- acting out the problem
- working backwards
- writing equation

→ try to use as few variables as possible  
 → algebraic (unknown → variable)

## 3) Carry out the plan/solve the problem:

- check your work at **each** step (may need to change plan)

## 4) Look back

- consider the reasonableness of your answer
- write your solution in complete sentences

Formulas EEF5

Temperature: F = degrees Fahrenheit, C = degrees Celsius

$$C = \frac{5}{9} (F - 32) \quad \text{or} \quad F = \frac{9}{5} C + 32$$

Simple Interest: I = interest, P = principal, r = interest rate (decimal), t = time

$$I = Prt$$

ex: 3% = .03

Distance Traveled: d = distance, r = rate, t = time

$$d = rt$$

Profit: P = profit, I = income, E = expenses

$$P = I - E$$