

## Problem-solving homework strategy

This strategy encourages a deep understanding of concepts and procedures in calculation. The time you spend on this will reduce the amount of time you may spend in “plug and chug” attempts to do the homework, and reduce the amount of time you will need for studying later on.

1. Prepare for the homework questions.
  - review class notes and understand the concepts in the examples. This might take 30 - 45 minutes.
  - write the first line of a sample problem, close the book, and work as far as you can without looking.
  - refer back to notes, and then again attempt sample
  - repeat over again until you can solve the sample problem both accurately and quickly.

You will have memorized the rules in the process. This might take 1 hour.

2. Start the homework questions. Interrogate your problem solutions: ask questions about the problem and your method of solving it. E.g.
  - What are the givens? Can the givens be classified as Assets, Liabilities, Owner's Equity, Income, Expenses, etc? Is there any Depreciation?
  - What is required?
  - Can I diagram this?
  - What concepts are referred to? Theorems? Operations?
  - Is the problem similar to others I solved/How?
  - What more do I need to understand this?
  - Are there any “tricks” to the question? If so, how do I deal with them?
3. Keep track of problems you have trouble solving, isolate the particular difficulty, and get help to figure it out. Drill these problems until you are both accurate and fast in solving them.