

Test Taking Tips for Math

study skills, homework help, math anxiety, math, math help, basic math, algebra, algebra help, learning styles

You already have a lot of knowledge stored in your memory. The problem is pulling out the correct information when you need it. Picture your brain like a giant filing cabinet full of file folders and the hard part is remembering the headings on the file folders.

1 Know how to distinguish between the various types of problems. This is the hardest part.

2 Most math texts have chapter tests at the end of each chapter. Try one problem from each section. Make a note of their differences. Write down the first step to each problem -- this is usually the hardest to remember.

3 Go back to the section in the text where you are having difficulty. Follow the examples making sure you understand each step. This takes time.

4 Reading a math book is not like reading a novel. It goes slowly. It may take you 20 minutes to go through one example problem.

5 Don't leave preparing for a test to the last minute. Make sure you leave time to ask questions in class **AFTER** you have studied.

6 Do as many problems as you can until you feel comfortable with the material.

7 In the class session a day or so **BEFORE** the test, ask the teacher to please point out any major similarities or differences among the various types of problems you will encounter on the test.

8 Get the phone number of someone in your class who won't mind if you call them with questions.

9 If possible, form a small study group with members from your class and meet periodically during the semester.

10 Math is a cumulative subject. You **REALLY** need to understand today's material to understand the material the next day. Ask questions immediately in class as soon as you don't understand anything. Don't just "let it go".

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Note Taking Tips for Math



- 1** Write down the "title" of the lesson. If you don't know, ask the teacher.
- 2** Write down the math problem and each step in the solution using math symbols. Next to each step write down "in your own words" exactly what you are doing.
- 3** Write down a "question mark" next to anything you don't understand. Ask the teacher to explain the parts where you have written your "question marks". Don't just "let it go" thinking that you will figure it out later. Many times, it doesn't happen.
- 4** When you get home, before you start your homework, "highlight in color" the titles you have written in your notes. The highlighted information will help to give you the "big picture" of what you are doing.
- 5** Remember, do all homework problems, not just some of them!