

# Four-Step Approach to Problem Solving

## Problem Solving Strategies

- Use a verbal model.
- Write an equation.
- Sketch a graph or number line.
- Look for a pattern.
- Work backward.
- Guess, check, and revise.
- Draw a diagram.
- Make a table or list.
- Break the problem into parts.

### UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM

What is the unknown?

What information is being given?

What is being asked?

### MAKE A PLAN

Choose a strategy.

### SOLVE THE PROBLEM

Carry out your plan.

Check that each step is correct.

### LOOK BACK

Examine your solution.

Check that your solution makes sense in the original statement of the problem.