It systematically searches for a solution to a problem among all available options. It is a form of recursion. Backtracking can be thought of as a selective tree/graph traversal method. The tree is way of representing some initial starting position (the root node) and a final goal state (one of the leaves).

If we backtrack all the way to our initial state and have explored all alternatives from there, we can conclude the particular problem is insolvable.

* Sometimes the best algo for a problem is to try all possibilities.
* Algorithms for generating basic objects, such as binary strings[2n possibilities for n-bit string], permutations(n!), combinations(n!/r!(n-r)!), general strings (k-ary strings of length n has kn possibilities), e N-Queen problem, The knapsack problem, Hamiltonian Cycles, Graph colouring problem etc…
* Backtracking speeds the exhaustive search by pruning