Example 1:

If n is an odd integer, then n^2 is odd.

$$n = (2k + 1)$$
 by def. of odd
$$n^2 = (2k+1)^2$$
 squaring n
$$= 4k^2 + 4k + 1$$
 algebra/FOIL
$$= 2(k^2 + 2k) + 1$$
 factoring
$$= 2Q + 1$$
 Let $Q = k^2 + 2k$

Thus $n^2 = 2Q + 1$ and therefore by the definition of odd, n^2 is odd.

QED

Example 2:

If n and m are both perfect squares then n*m is a perfect square.

$$n = s^2$$
 Given, and def. of perfect square $m = t^2$ Given, and def. of perfect square $m = s^2 t^2$ Given $mn =$

Thus mn is a perfect square.

QED

Example 3:

If n is an integer and (3n +2) is odd, then n is odd.

We propose a proof by contrapositive.

The contrapositive is equivalent to the original proposition, if we succeed in proving the contrapositive we will know the original proposition is true.

The contrapositive is:

If n is an integer, and n is not odd, then (3n + 2) is not odd.

Or, since, not odd = even,

If n is an integer, and n is even, then (3n + 2) is even.

We commence the proof.

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n = 2*a By def. of even
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3n + 2 = 3(2a) + 2 By given and substitution
= 6a + 2 By algebra
= 2(3a + 1) factoring
= 2*Z Let Z = (3a + 1)
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Thus we see 3n + 2 = 2*Z and by the def. of even, 3n + 2 is even.

The contrapositive is proved and hence the original proposition is proved as well.

QED

Example 8: Prove if n^2 is odd, then n is odd.

This goes badly with a direct proof - (why?)

Prove by contrapositive

The contrapositive is, If n is even, then n^2 is even.

n = 2b def. of even $n^2 = (2b)^2$ substitution $= 4b^2$ algebra $= 2(2b^2)$ factoring Let k = $(2b^2)$

Thus by def. Of even, n^2 is even.

The contrapositive is proved and so is the original statement.

substitution

QED

= 2k

Example 9:

Show that at least 4 of any given 22 days must fall on the same day of the week (Sunday, Monday, etc..).

We prove by contradiction.

The *negation* of the proposition P is:

Not P = Less than 4 of any given 22 days must fall on the same day of the week.

We take the - P to be true

If Less than 4 of any given collection of 22 days must fall on the same day of the week, then **at mos**t 3 of any 22 days can be the same day of the week.

Consider such a collection of 22 days which includes **at mos**t 3 of any 22 days of the same day of the week.

Since there are 7 days in a week, we can see that it is possible to have 3 sets of days of the week in a set of 21 days.

To complete a collection of 22 days, the final day must then repeat one of the given 7 days of the week.

This leaves us with 4 days in the collection that fall on the same day of the week.

However, we assumed we can only have at most 3 days fall on the same day of the week (-P)

-P is then not true.

Hence by contradiction we see P is true.

*also note: we showed (--P) is true. --P == P, thus P is true.

QED