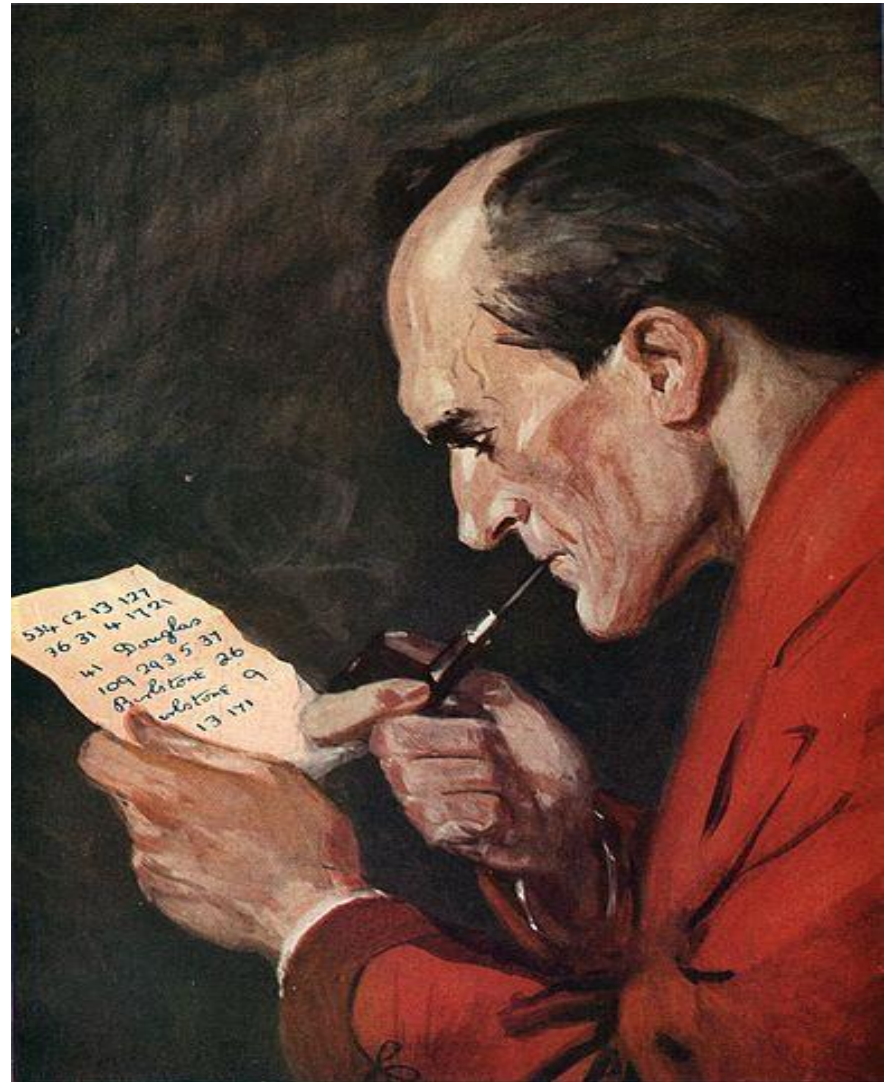# Module Introduction

Elementary, My Dear Watson!

Have you ever found yourself furiously turning the pages of a detective fiction novel or sitting at the edge of the seat watching a '*Whodunnit*' movie trying to crack a murder mystery?

And were you able to solve the case? Did you experience the 'oh-I-knew-it' moment?

Doesn't it feel great to solve mysteries?!!

Solving Real World Problems

Whether it is a great detective story, puzzle, game, treasure hunt, riddle, brain-teaser etc.. surely, you have had your share of fun and joy in solving problems for *recreation.*

In *reality* as well, be it consciously or not, what you do almost all the time is, solve problems.

The difference is that the intention may not be entertainment but survival itself. You are solving problems at home, at work, in your personal life and beyond.

With shared economies, globalization and increased connectivity the world is becoming smaller and problems bigger. Further, the impact of these issues is far reaching and instant. An incident which happens in one small part of the world can disrupt life in another distant part of the planet.

Heard of the 'Butterfly effect'?

Today, more than anything else, the world needs us to get better at solving problems as they continue to increase in complexity.

The Butterfly Effect

The "Butterfly effect" is an idea that says a small change can make much bigger changes happen. The idea started from weather prediction. The term 'butterfly effect' comes from an analogy where a butterfly flaps its wings in Chicago and a tornado occurs in Tokyo.

What Is a Problem?

What do you mean by a problem?

- Take a few moments and reflect on how would you define a problem.

- In this context what are the kind of problems that you come across?

- While you do this exercise, here are some more questions that you may consider.

- You can surely add your own!

'The problem is not that there are problems. The problem is expecting otherwise and thinking that having problems is a problem.'

Theodore Rubin

(American author and psychiatrist)

Lots Of Questions!

➢ Can all problems be solved?

➢ How can problems be solved better?

➢ What are complex problems?

➢ What kinds of problems are there?

➢ What is the difference between solving and resolving?

➢ Why do we need to learn problem solving skills?

➢ Don't we already know how to solve problems?

➢ How to evaluate our own competency?

➢ Is there a process to solve problems?
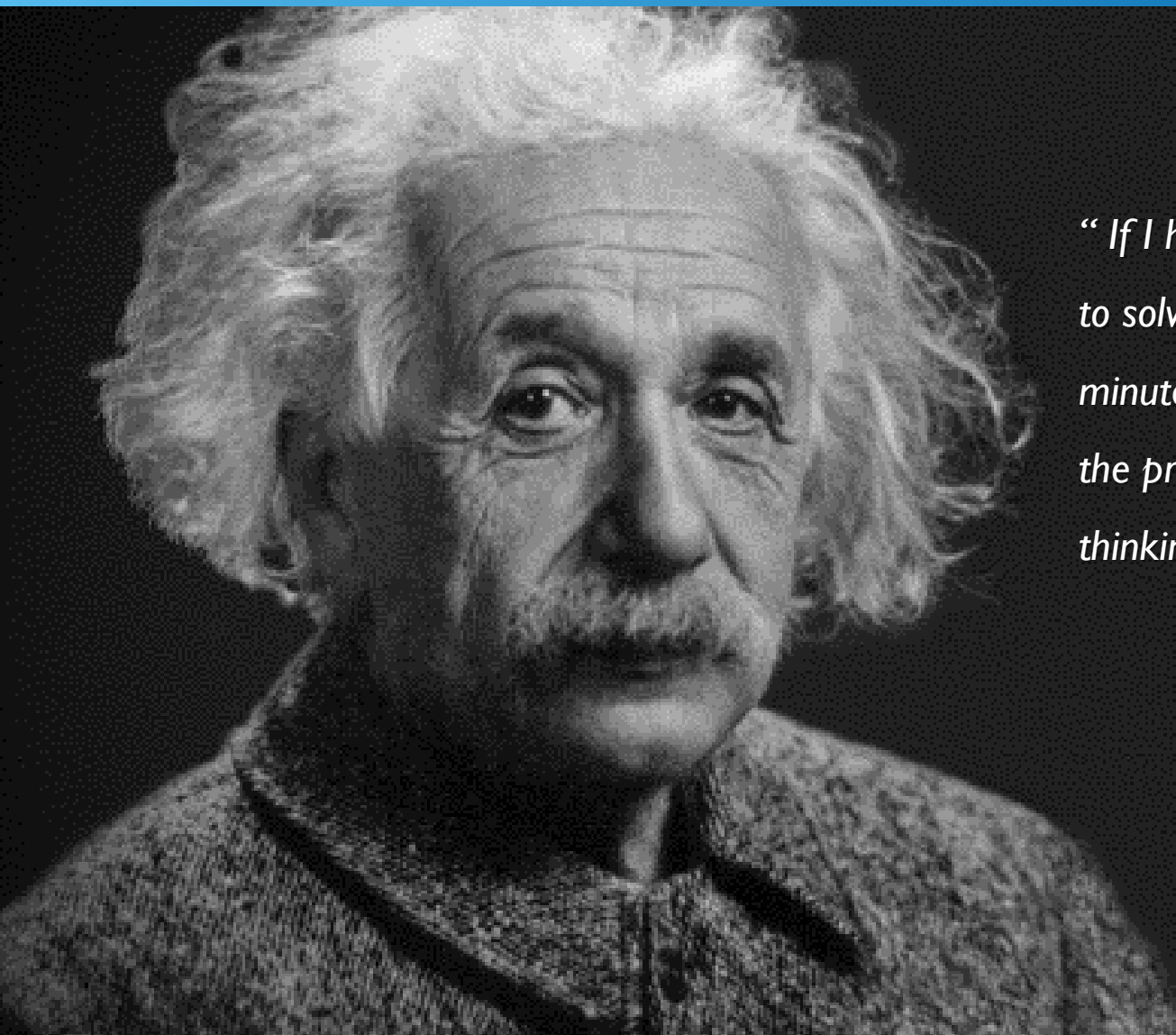
" If I had an hour

to solve a problem I'd spend 55

minutes thinking about

the problem and five minutes

thinking about solutions."

- Albert Einstein

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What is your 'Personal' Why?

Solving problems comes naturally to us and over the years we have all discovered and developed our own styles, methods and tactics to solve problems. Again, our skills may have been tested and perfected as well having been used on a variety of problems. So, if you are wondering what is the need to learn these skills, then your query is valid.

Well, while you may have learnt how to tackle many problems, is your way the best way to solve the problem? Further, do you encounter situations or issues you have dealt with but they keep recurring? If so, make a note of these issues. There may also be big problems which have somehow just been delayed, deferred, avoided or transferred but are beyond your capability of solving.

Before proceeding further into this module take a few minutes to *note what is your personal reason and specific requirement from this course.* Click on the link below and take the quiz for a self-check and make sure that you go through the results and analysis as well:

- **How Good Is Your Problem Solving?**

(Right click on the link to open it in a new tab)

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