

Things to try if you have solved a problem

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Peter's primary school teacher used to say if you are bored, it is only because you haven't bothered to think of something to do. Some things to ask yourself if you have solved the problem in question and are waiting for the next part of the class to happen:

- why did your solution work?
- how could you have solved it better/faster/more completely?
- what can you do now that you couldn't do before?
- can you pose a different problem and solve it by the same method?
 - can you add additional restrictions and make a different puzzle to solve?
 - can you change the context and make a different puzzle to solve?
 - can you generalise, abstract or otherwise extend the problem into another problem or family of problems?