

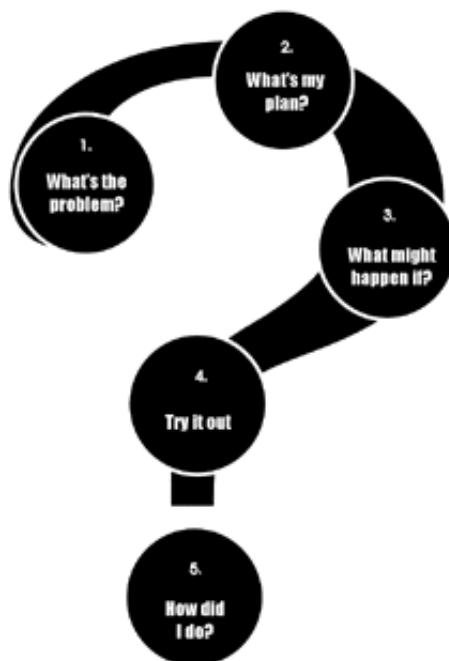


Problem Solving

What is a problem?

A problem is any situation in which you have a starting point, a set of directions, and the need to create a solution or answer. The kinds of problems that you are likely to encounter range from problems in math and science to situations that arise as part of the Canadian Academy of Travel & Tourism program, and everything in between.

Five Steps to Solving a Problem



One way of solving problems is this five step method:

1. **What is the problem?**

Tell yourself exactly what the problem is. Be clear and specific.

2. **What is my plan?**

- Think of at least 2 or 3 possible strategies that you might use to solve the problem. A strategy is a way or method or process for solving a problem. It's not the answer or solution itself but, rather, how you can find the solution or answer.

3. **What might happen if?**

Examine your list of possible strategies, and choose the one that seems best.

4. **Try it out!**

Try your best strategy and see if it works to solve the problem. If it works, you're done!

5. **How did I do?**

- If your best strategy doesn't work, go back to your list of possible strategies in Step Two and choose another. Then, try this one.

Or, stop thinking about the problem for awhile, and come back to it later.

Or, research the problem, and then start again with Step Two.

