

Problem-Solving Strategy – Work Backwards

Yew, W. T.; Lian, L. H.; and Meng, C. C. (2017). Problem solving strategies among primary school teachers. *Journal of Education and Practice* 8(15), 136-140.

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This targeted intervention enables students to use the events that occurred previously when the final outcome of the problem has been given.

Materials:

- Word problems
- Paper/Pencil
- Chart with **Work Backwards Steps**
 - (1) Start at the end of the problem and work step-by-step toward the beginning.
 - (2) Write down the information that you don't know and what you do know.
 - (3) Write down each step you do as you get closer to the beginning.
 - (4) The last step should prove that the solution works.

Steps:

1. The teacher and student(s) read the problem together. The teacher paraphrases the problem.
2. The student(s) restate the question in own words.
3. The student(s) determine the important information.
4. Using the **Word Backwards Steps**, the student(s) solve the problem.