

How to Study Mathematics

1. Before starting the written part of every homework assignment, the student should review the notes from the day's lesson. On most days, this will probably require no more than two minutes.

2. After reviewing the day's notes (and before starting the written part of the assignment), the student should reflect on the lesson and state what the one or two most important concepts or skills were. (This helps put the concepts in the student's short and long term memory.)

3. During homework, students should consult the Answer Key in the back of the text to see if their answer to each odd-numbered problem is correct. If an answer is incorrect, students should re-do the problem and consult their notes until they get it right. (Giving up too soon is the best way to *not* learn. Only after 10 minutes of struggling should a student feel entitled to give up.)

4. Once every week, the student should glance through the notes from the previous five or six lessons. This may not require more than five minutes. (This is another antidote to blanking out on tests because it helps put the concepts in the student's long term memory.)

5. Before every test, the student should review the notes to all the lessons upon which the test is based. Students who say they blank out during tests are invariably students who won't take this obviously helpful step.

6. Before every test, if the student follows the first five steps, there need only be a light review, not an all-night cram session. Cramming is the best way to learn as little math as possible while expending the most effort!!

GJ