

How to Study Math

- Prepare a well-planned and well-balanced schedule for each day of the week.
- Read a few sections in advance before each class.
- Go to class well prepared. Be ready to ask and answer questions.
- Do not skip classes. The information is cumulative; so every step counts.
- Always take down notes (on the RHS of your notebook; use the LHS for solutions of corresponding exercises from the book).
- Always have enough paper and pencils with you.
- Study the material taught in class again on the *same* day as the class.
- Pay close attention to symbols, notations, definitions, properties, and theorems.
- Develop a decent working vocabulary of the subject. (Math is a concise and precise language; so try to speak the language of math fluently.)
- Keep practicing definitions, properties, as well as theorems and their proofs in your own words.
- Study the examples, proofs, and exercises done in class; close your notebook; try to do them on your own. If you cannot do them without help, study them again and try again.
- Do the exercises at the end of a section, after studying the section; do not reverse the order.
- Do not skip steps until you have mastered the material.
- Do not write over previous steps in a solution or proof.
- If you cannot solve a problem because it involves a new theorem, formula, or some property, then re-study the relevant portion of the section.
- Math can be learned in small quantities only. So, do math every day. Remember, practice is the best way to succeed.
- Work with others whenever helpful.
- Seek help when in doubt or trouble. (e.g. teacher, fellow student, or tutor)

- Make the best use of your professor's office hours. Go to him/her always well-prepared. Bring a list of questions to ask the professor.
- Math is a cumulative subject. So, build a good foundation to do additional work.
- Always review earlier materials before each week. Things must be fresh in your mind for you to build on them.
- Use your time wisely and carefully.