

10 Steps to Boost up Your Mathematical Skills

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ABSTRACT: Mathematics has always been the waterloo of many individuals which cause problem not only to students but also to their parents. Focus and extra attention to details is necessary. Mathematics is an enjoyable subject; here are ten (10) steps to boost up your mathematical skills;

1. Math is just learning how to run
2. Focus
3. Practice makes perfect
4. Writing it down is a must
5. A pen is good, but pencil is far better in Math
6. Invest on mechanical pencils and nice eraser
7. Draw
8. Organize your work
9. Sleep on time
10. Share what you know

Having these in mind, will able anyone to improve mathematical skills without stressing yourself out and will realize that mathematics is fun to learn.

Mathematics has always been the most difficult subject of many individuals. This particularly causes problems not only to the students, but more so, to the parents. Mathematics, however, can be an enjoyable subject in many ways and here are the ten (10) steps to do so:

1. Math is just like learning how to run. Thus, one cannot run without first learning how to walk. In math, an individual cannot master Algebra, without mastering simple operations, to include multiplication, division, addition and subtraction (MDAS) first. For most students, once frustrated, they tend to move on the next lesson when they find difficulty mastering the present. Unfortunately, this strategy cannot be applied in Math. In Mathematics, all courses are taught in a specific sequence since each topic is a pre-requisite of the other. Therefore, if you are having a hard time with one, you have to give all efforts that you can muster, in order to master it. Focus and pay extra attention to details until such time you will be able to master the topic and move on to the next. Bear in mind that learning takes time and patience.
2. Focus. When you are trying to study, it is best to do it in a quiet spot where there are no other distractions. Doing so will clear you mind, making you more efficient in solving complex mathematical problems. Focusing requires a lot of discipline and the ability to shelter yourself from the distractions in your surroundings. Thus, make it a point that you are free of distractions when trying to study. However, some individuals find it more appealing if they study while listening to music all the while. It is still best

to find out what suits you. Try both and observe which one works best for you, but the whole idea is to get yourself focused, 100% on what you are doing.

3. Practice makes perfect. As the cliché goes, one way of mastering mathematical operations is continuous practice. It requires use of your newly acquired skills and it allows you to build up on it. Therefore, after mastering the formulas, practice solving example problems to better understand the topic. Check your solutions and compare answers. The more examples you solve the more familiar you would become with the topic. Frequent practice will also improve your skills and before you know it, you will be able to solve more complex problems with much greater ease at a faster pace, plus, with greater confidence. From there, you are now ready to move on to the next lesson.
4. Writing it down is a must. Trying to solve mathematical problems in your head, especially complex word problems, will only lead to confusion. Therefore, it is very essential to write down every important detail of a problem. All operations, however simple, must be reflected in your solution, step by step. This confusion will be eliminated and you will also be able to track down your work. It is also essential to solve the problem one step at a time, first things first. Through this, you will not jumble operations and will come up with proper solutions and check for any discrepancies on how you come up with your final answer.
5. A pen is good, but a pencil is far better in Math. When you are trying to solve a math problem, be it simple or complex problems, mistakes are inevitable. It would be wiser to use a pencil where you can erase errors or your solution entirely, rather than scratching it out with a pen or writing over it. Doing this, will only lead to confusion and at some point increase your anxiety level, seeing an untidy solution.
6. Invest on mechanical pencils and a nice eraser. Mechanical pencils have clearer lines than ordinary pencils. Use erasers that won't smear on your work, leaving your paper clean and good as new to write on. However minimally relevant, it will somehow lessen the stress of working on a filthy sheet and thus maintain your confidence.
7. Draw. In attacking certain Math problems, particularly in Trigonometry, Calculus and Physics, it is best to draw a picture of the problem. Through this, you will be able to identify what the problem is really asking for and will give you an insight on how to come up with the right solution. This technique works from simple to complex problems.
8. Organize your work. This will not only help organize your thoughts but also will let your teacher know what you were thinking and how you attacked the problem. Write down your solution in an organized manner to avoid confusion on your part. It will keep a track of what you are doing. This will particularly make you stay focused on your work.
9. Sleep on time. Enough sleep at night will not only relax your body but your mind as well. Therefore, it is imperative to sleep on time and not stay up late at night, trying to study. The bottom line is, do not try

to solve Math problems very late at night. Doing so will just be imposing extreme torture on your mind. It is still best if you rest and take ample amount of sleep and get back to your Math problems in the morning.

10. Share what you know. When I was a student, I have observed that the more I share what I knew, the more familiar I would become with a certain topic. With this practice, I was able to discover better understanding of a certain topic. Therefore, if someone tries to ask for your help, do not hesitate to teach them. This principle is somehow connected to practicing it, not by yourself, but with someone. In addition, it will also build more confidence in you, which, as said earlier, is essential in Mathematics.

Having these techniques in mind, you will be able to improve your mathematical skills without stressing yourself out.