



Problem solving is a really important part of maths, but, sometimes, questions can be tricky and you might find you are stuck . Being stuck is a good thing, it means you are facing a challenge, and you will make progress because of this challenge. It is important to have strategies to help you when you do get stuck, these are 4 strategies that we will be using during the year.

Trial and Error

Solve a problem by guessing the answer and then checking that the guess fits the conditions of the problem.

If it doesn't work, have a look at what you could change for your next guess.

Keep guessing and adjusting your thinking until you work it out.

**Trial
and
Error**

Trial by Improvement

This builds on Trial and Error.

Solve a problem by removing improbable answers until the correct answer remains.

Make an estimate, get a solution. Is it correct? Why not? How can we change our estimate to improve it?

Work systematically.

**Trial by
Improvement**

Act it Out

A great way to start solving problems is to act out, make or draw what the problem shows.

Physically acting out the situation presented in a maths problem or creating a representation helps you to better understand what the problem is asking.

**Act It
Out**

Looking for Patterns

Many problems can be solved by identifying a repeating pattern in shapes or numbers and using that to predict what may happen in other situations.

Solve a problem by looking for these patterns, repetitions or sequences in the data.

**Looking for
patterns**