# Strategy guide: *Math/Science Problem Solving*

| Technique | Basic idea | When to try it | Reason for using it |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Draw a diagram |  |  |  |
| Identify key variables |  |  |  |
| Work backwards |  |  |  |
| Find the trick | Identify what makes the question hard, how it is different from previous questions, or any key facts you know (such as knowing to use certain units). | The question is similar to others you have done but for some reason harder, or you think you know how to do it but it isn't working. | Identifying what it is that makes a question harder lets you focus in on how to resolve that particular aspect; noting key facts helps you remember them. |
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