

# Learn Math by Doing Math

## 5 Steps to Greater Success in Math Classes

### **Learning Math is not a passive process, you have to be Active, even Proactive**

Learn the rules, axioms and techniques. Read, reread, then re-reread the theorems to really understand them and the conditions under which they apply.

### **Practice! Practice! Practice!**

You can't learn math by reading the textbook like a novel. Do problems – lots of problems, take a break, then do some more problems.

### **Don't be Afraid to Ask Questions**

Lots of students won't ask questions for fear of "looking stupid". If you are afraid of appearing ignorant in front of your peers, it's time to ask yourself if maintaining your pride is worth doing poorly in the class. Chances are, most of the other students won't know the answers either, and many of them would silently respect you for having the courage to ask questions that they probably wouldn't. Be a leader and learn, everyone else will also learn BECAUSE OF YOU! Ask students with better grades, again, forget about that pride. Ask your teachers. Ask your tutor. But ask!

### **You Learn at Home, Not in Class**

Time in class is for asking questions and clarifying points, not learning, per se, there just isn't enough time. Once you graduate from elementary or middle school, what you learn is more about what YOU do on your own and less about what the teacher says in class. In class, ideas can be introduced, but the thinking required to really understand them, their connections and ramifications generally takes place outside of class...often while doing problems.

### **Do Your Reps!**

Doing problems is like training at the gym. The more problems you do, the more fluent you will become with the language of math, the concepts, the techniques, the connections, the workarounds, the tricks and thought processes necessary to be successful. Do *at least* ten problems **every day**.

**John Kisseadoo**

**founder of the MathDBase Project**

To book on-line tutoring sessions, contact: [tutoring@mathdbase.com](mailto:tutoring@mathdbase.com).  
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