

**1. Polya suggests: learning is better with friends!**

**Solver.**

- (a) Prepare: comfortable position, pencil, paper, etc.
- (b) Read hints, suggestions, discuss with partner.
- (c) Read the problem aloud.
- (d) Solve on own. You speak, you solve, partner listens.
- (e) Speak! No need to choose words.
- (f) Go back over problem; “I’m stuck. I better start over.” “No that won’t work.” “Let’s see... hmmm.”
- (g) Try to solve even trivial problems!

**Listener.**

- (a) Listener not a critic. “Please elaborate.” “What are you thinking now?” “Can you check that?”
- (b) Role: (a) Demand that PS keep talking but don’t interrupt. (b) Make sure that PS follows the strategy and doesn’t skip any of the steps. (c) Help PS improve his/her accuracy. (d) Help reflect the mental process PS is following. (e) Make sure you understand each step.
- (c) Do not turn away from PS and start to work on problem!!!!
- (d) Do not let PS continue if:
  - i. You don’t understand. “I don’t understand.” or “I don’t follow that.”
  - ii. When there is a mistake. “Maybe check that.” or “Does that sound right?”
- (e) No hints! Point out errors, but no correction.

## 2. Pigeonhole Principle

Prove that if you put  $n + 1$  apples into  $n$  boxes, any way you like, then at least one box must contain at least 2 apples. This is known as the *pigeonhole principle*.

## 3. Contraposition

Prove that if  $a + b < c + d$ , then  $a < c$  or  $b < d$ .

## 4. Proof by?

- (a) Prove that if  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if 10 does not divide  $xy$ , then 10 does not divide  $x$  and 10 does not divide  $y$ . In notation:  $(\forall x, y \in \mathbb{Z}) 10 \nmid xy \implies (10 \nmid x \wedge 10 \nmid y)$ . What proof technique did you use?
- (b) Prove or disprove the contrapositive.
- (c) Prove or disprove the converse.

## 5. Perfect Square

A *perfect square* is an integer  $n$  of the form  $n = m^2$  for some integer  $m$ . Prove that every odd perfect square is of the form  $8k + 1$  for some integer  $k$ .

## 6. Fermat's Contradiction

Prove that  $2^{1/n}$  is not rational for any integer  $n > 3$ . (*Hint*: Use Fermat's Last Theorem.)