

How to Study Math!!!

Method 1: Make notecards. Yes, notecards.

1. Only use problems that you have the FULL, STEP BY STEP & CORRECT solution for. This could be from your textbook, a worksheet you went over in class, or homework you went over.
2. Put the problem on one side of the card.
3. Write the FULL, STEP BY STEP SOLUTION including the answer on the back side.
4. Get another sheet of paper. Write out the problem from the front side (NOT with the solution on it).
5. Work the problem on that sheet of paper.
6. Turn over your card to see that your step by step solution matches the one on the card.
7. If it doesn't match, you'll be able to see at what point you made an error. This should help you not make that error.

Method 2: Do practice problems with post-its

1. Use those problems you have the COMPLETE solution to, not just the answer. Looking at a problem, rewrite only the problem on another sheet of paper while you cover the original problem's step by step solution with post-it notes.
2. Work the problem on the sheet of paper, then remove the post-its and see if your solution looks exactly like the problem you covered.

Sample Notecard:

Front of card (problem)

$$2x-4=12$$

Back of card (problem with full & correct solution)

$$\begin{aligned} 2x-4 &= 12 \\ +4 &= +4 \\ 2x &= 16 \\ \underline{2x} &= \underline{16} \\ 2 &= 2 \\ \\ X &= 8 \end{aligned}$$

Back of card (to compare your sheet to!)

$$\begin{aligned} 2x-4 &= 12 \\ +4 &= +4 \\ 2x &= 16 \\ \underline{2x} &= \underline{16} \\ 2 &= 2 \\ \\ X &= 8 \end{aligned}$$

Your sheet (See where you went wrong?
You subtracted instead of added.)

$$\begin{aligned} 2x-4 &= 12 \\ +4 &= +4 \\ 2x &= 8 \\ \underline{2x} &= \underline{8} \\ 2 &= 2 \\ \\ X &= 4 \end{aligned}$$