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What is Problem Solving

Unlocking Solutions: The Art of Problem Solving

DEFINITION

Problem solving is the process of finding solutions to difficult or complex issues. It involves identifying a problem, brainstorming solutions, and implementing the best option.

KEY CONCEPTS

Identify the Problem

Recognize what the issue is before trying to solve it.

Brainstorm Solutions

Think of as many possible solutions as you can without judging them.

Evaluate Options

Consider the pros and cons of each solution to find the best one.

Implement the Solution

Put your chosen solution into action and see if it works.

Reflect on the Process

After solving the problem, think about what worked and what didn't for future reference.

EXAMPLES

- Figuring out how to share toys fairly among friends.
- Finding the quickest route to school when running late.
- Deciding how to save money for a new bike.

MEMORY TIPS

- ★ Use the acronym I-B-E-R: Identify, Brainstorm, Evaluate, Reflect.
- ★ Think of problem solving like a treasure hunt: find clues to lead to the solution.
- ★ Visualize a toolbox: each tool represents a different strategy for solving problems.

COMMON MISTAKES

- ✗ Rushing to a solution without fully understanding the problem.
- ✗ Ignoring the need to evaluate all possible options.
- ✗ Failing to reflect on the outcome after implementing a solution.

QUICK RECAP

Problem solving is essential for overcoming challenges. Remember to identify the problem, brainstorm solutions, evaluate options, implement the best choice, and reflect on the process afterward.