

Study Skills in Action

Viewing Math as a Foreign Language

Using Study Strategies

In each *Study Skills in Action* feature, you will learn a new study strategy that will help you progress through the course. Each strategy will help you:

- set up good study habits;
- organize information into smaller pieces;
- create review tools;
- memorize important definitions and rules; and
- learn the math at hand.

Learning math requires more than just completing homework problems. For instance, learning the material in a chapter may require using approaches similar to those used for learning a foreign language in that you must:

- understand and memorize vocabulary words;
- understand and memorize mathematical rules (as you would memorize grammatical rules); and
- apply rules to mathematical expressions or equations (like creating sentences using correct grammar rules).

You should understand the vocabulary words and rules in a chapter as well as memorize and say them out loud. Strive to speak the mathematical language with fluency, just as a student learning a foreign language must.

Absolute Value

- Has to be a real #
- Distance from 0 on a real number line
- Have to use ||
- Never a -

Rules Multiply Integers (3)

1. Multiply 0 w/ integer = 0
 $7 \cdot 0 = 0$
2. Multiply like signs = positive number
 $(-4)(-4) = 16$ $4 \cdot 4 = 16$
3. Multiply different signs = negative number
 $(-7)(2) = -14$

Round decimal to 2 decimal places.

Fix $2.9375 =$
(scientific)

Smart Study Strategy

Make Note Cards

Invest in three different colors of 4 × 6 note cards. Use one color for each of the following: vocabulary words, rules, and calculator keystrokes.

- Write vocabulary words on note cards, one word per card. Write the definition and an example on the other side. If possible, put definitions in your own words.
- Write rules on note cards, one per card. Include an example and an explanation on the other side.
- Write each kind of calculation on a separate note card. Include the keystrokes required to perform the calculation on the other side.

Use the note cards as references while doing your homework. Quiz yourself once a day.