

Math Study Skills Inventory

Rate your achievement of the following statements by placing a **3** for **almost always**, **2** for **sometimes**, and **1** for **almost never**. If you have **never even thought** about doing it, put a **0**.

Selecting a math class

- ___ 1. I schedule my math class at a time when I am mentally sharp.
- ___ 2. If I have a choice, I select a math class that meets three to five days a week instead of one or two.
- ___ 3. I schedule the next math class as soon as possible after I have completed the current course.
- ___ 4. I am sure that I have signed up for the correct level math course.

Time and place for studying math

- ___ 5. I attend every class.
- ___ 6. I try to get my math homework done immediately after math class, and if I can't, I always do it before the next class.
- ___ 7. I have a specific time to study math each day.
- ___ 8. I have a specific place with few distractions to study math.
- ___ 9. I do my math homework in the math lab where I can get help.
- ___ 10. I am careful to keep up to date with math homework.
- ___ 11. I study math at least 8 to 10 hours a week.

Study strategies for math class

- ___ 12. I read my textbook before I come to class.
- ___ 13. I take notes in math class.
- ___ 14. I am careful to copy all the steps of math problems in my notes.
- ___ 15. I ask questions when I am confused.
- ___ 16. I go to the instructor, the lab, or to classmate when I am confused.
- ___ 17. I try to determine exactly when I got confused and exactly what confused me.
- ___ 18. I review my notes and text before beginning homework.
- ___ 19. I work problems until I understand them, not just until I get the right answer for my homework.
- ___ 20. I check my homework answers, which are given in back of the book or in the solution manual, as soon as I am finished.
- ___ 21. I use flashcards or a summary sheet to write out important properties, formulas, and vocabulary.

Math tests

- ___ 22. I obtain or make a list of all topics that will appear on the test.
- ___ 23. I make my own practice test of sample problems from each section.
- ___ 24. I study not just enough to pass, but to get close to 100%.
- ___ 25. I retest myself often to fix ideas to memory.
- ___ 26. I review topics each week, and do not wait until just before the test.
- ___ 27. I keep up to date so that I don't have to cram the night before a test.
- ___ 28. I preview the test before I begin.
- ___ 29. If I get to a problem that stumps me, I skip it and come back to it after I have finished all the other problems.
- ___ 30. I carefully check or rework as many problems that I have time to before I turn in my test.
- ___ 31. When tests are returned, I keep a log of the types of mistakes I make on tests: concept errors, application errors, or careless errors.

Anxiety

- ___ 32. I believe that I can succeed in math class.
- ___ 33. I have study partners in my math class.
- ___ 34. I take practice tests.

___ **TOTAL SCORE** from all 34 questions

SCORING:

If your score is 90 – 103, you are using the study skills needed to be successful in math.

If your score is 80 – 89, you are using good math study skills. Choose a few strategies to work on each day.

If your score is 70 – 79, your study skills are average. Choose one or two strategies in each category to work on until you are using most of the strategies described above.

If your score is below 70, you are probably having a difficult time in math class. Math may not be your trouble. More than likely, your main problem is the study strategies you are using (or not using). *Make yourself do the things listed above.*

This survey was adapted from *The Study Skills Workbook*, by Dr. Carolyn H. Hopper.

