1.3 – Problem Solving Strategies
(from “How to Solve It” by George Polya)

I. Understand the Problem
   • Read the directions! (If you don’t know where you’re going, you’ll never get there)
   • Identify the unknown

II. Devise a Plan
   • Consider inductive reasoning to uncover a pattern
   • Working Backwards
   • Trial and Error

III. Execute the Plan
   • If the answer seems too obvious, slow down and make sure you haven’t overlooked any information
   • If you hit a roadblock, don’t be discouraged about starting over

IV. Look Back
   • Does your answer make sense within the context of the problem?
   • Can you check your answer?