

# **What are Heuristics?**

Heuristics can be described as the general questioning strategies and techniques that one uses for solving problems. They include the questions a person asks himself or herself while solving a problem.

Teachers can help students develop heuristics by teaching them explicitly. Students develop heuristics better when they are embedded within a problem-solving model. With experience, students will develop their own heuristics to become more efficient problem-solvers.

Heuristics should not be confused with algorithms, specific instructions for solving a problem. Instead, heuristics provide a general direction to approach, understand, and solve a problem.