

# The 5 Whys

The goal of the 5 Whys method is to find the root cause of a problem and determine a solution by repeatedly asking, "Why?"

## Problem

**Write the problem statement or question you are trying to solve.**

**Problem:** I got a low score on my math test.

## WHY #1

**Provide a possible reason for the problem above and ask, "Why?"**

**Why** did I get a low score on my math test?

**Because** I didn't know how to solve the problems.

## WHY #2

**Provide a possible reason for the problem above and ask, "Why?"**

**Why** didn't I know how to solve the problems?

**Because** I didn't spend enough time studying.

## WHY #3

**Provide a possible reason for the problem above and ask, "Why?"**

**Why** didn't I spend more time studying?

**Because** I was distracted and couldn't concentrate when I tried studying.

## WHY #4

**Provide a possible reason for the problem above and ask, "Why?"**

**Why** was I distracted while studying?

**Because** the TV was on.

## WHY #5

**Provide a possible reason for the problem above and ask, "Why?"**

**Why** was the TV on while I was studying?

**Because** my sibling turned it on.

## Answer

**Write the root cause of your problem and provide a solution.**

The place where I was trying to study was loud and full of distractions.

I need to find a quiet place to do my schoolwork so that I can focus better.

# The 5 Whys Practice Sheet

**Problem**

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**WHY #1**

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**Because**

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**WHY #2**

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**Because**

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**WHY #3**

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**Because**

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**WHY #4**

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**Because**

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**WHY #5**

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**Because**

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**Answer**

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