Possible Remedies for Typical Math Errors

1. Clerical Errors:

Do you copy the answer on your answer sheet incorrectly?
Do you frequently switch digits, misread a sign, or leave out an exponent?

Remedy: Get Organized.

- Make sure you have plenty of space to work out the problem.
- Number your problems on scratch paper.
- Check digit for digit at each step in a problem.
- Use graph paper or turn notebook paper so the lines are vertical to align digits.

2. Computational Errors:

Do you make simple adding, subtracting, multiplying, or dividing mistakes?

Remedy: Review Basic Facts.

- Practice and memorize the arithmetic facts.
- Use flashcards for drilling facts.
- Test yourself.
- Use a calculator or computer that provides drill and tells you if your answers are correct.

3. Choice of Procedure Errors:

Do you have trouble with word problems?
Do you sometimes misread operation symbols?
In an equation do you have difficulty identifying how to solve for x?

Vary Your Study Methods.

- Learn vocabulary that is specific to math.
- Create and solve your own problems.
- Draw pictures, or use charts and graphs.
- Identify what is given and what is wanted.
- Get verbal instructions. (For example have someone read 5648 ÷ 8 to help you distinguish from 5648 − 8.)
4. **Use of Procedure Errors:**

Do you constantly make the same error(s)?

**Follow-up**

- Identify erroneous train of thought.
- Practice the incorrect step in problem solving.
- If multiple errors occur, learn a new method.

5. **Random Errors:**

**Relearn.**

- Study the content as if you had never seen it before.
- Work for understanding rather than merely learning rules for obtaining answers.