

Analyzing Test Errors

based upon Paul Nolting's "Winning at Math"

It is important to analyze and correct your mistake when you get back your test. Generally, there are six type of errors made on a test:

- 1) **Reading the Direction Errors** include misreading, skipping, or not understanding the directions to a problem.
- 2) **Careless Errors** are typically errors a person makes rushing through a test and can be caught and correct IMMEDIATELY upon reviewing the test.
- 3) **Concept Errors** are errors when a property or concept is not fully understood. Students have a tendency to think these are careless errors, but if the mistake cannot be identified and corrected immediately, then it is a concept error. Another good test is that if a person cannot write the concept in his/her own words, then the person does not understand the concept.
- 4) **Application Errors** are errors when a person knows the concept, but cannot apply it to an application such as solving a word problem or writing an equation.
- 5) **Test-taking Errors** are errors in how a person took a test. These include, but are not limited to:
 - a) Spending too much time on one problem or on one part of the test.
 - b) Not finishing a problem.
 - c) Changing an answer from a correct answer to an incorrect answer.
 - d) Arriving late to a test or leaving early during a test.
 - e) Rushing through the easiest part of test and making careless errors.
 - f) Leaving an answer blank.
 - g) Not understanding how to use your calculator and/or bring the wrong type of calculator for the test.
 - h) Miscopying a problem to a piece of scratch paper or miscopying the solution from a piece of scratch paper.
- 6) **Study Errors** are errors in how a person studied for the test. Study errors include when a person missed a problem because he/she did not study, studied the wrong material, did not keep up with the assignments, or did not practice that particular type of problem enough.