

Worked Examples Effects

Theory

The worked examples effect was first introduced in 1985¹⁾ suggesting positive effects of providing a learner with an example of the problem solution before requiring him to solve one on his own.

This suggestion is contrary to many [constructivist discovery learning](#) methods which suggest a learner should try to solve the problem by himself. [Cognitive load theory](#) on the other hand suggests that searching for the problem solution places unnecessary load on the learner's mind preventing him from learning. A worked example will remove the load of searching for a solution and enable easier acquisition of basic steps leading to the solution.

Practice

Research status

1)

Sweller, John, and Graham Cooper. The Use of Worked Examples as a Substitute for Problem Solving in Learning Algebra. *Cognition and Instruction* 2: 59-89, 1985.

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