

# Solving A Problem

By Leslie Daniel

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We are often our own biggest obstacle when it comes to problem solving.

Our creative powers can become stifled because we tend to: define problems narrowly, avoid looking foolish, cling to long-held beliefs through force of habit.

These suggestions can help you overcome self-imposed limitations:

Fight the fear of risk taking. The world won't come to an end.

Remember that you are smarter than you think. Avoid self-defeating beliefs.

Break problems down. Divide them into smaller parts and solve each separately.

Think in reverse. Start with an end of a process in mind.

Don't reinvent the wheel. Ask questions.

Put your ideas on paper. Conceptual devices, such as doodles, drawings, flowcharts and diagrams, can help you see the big picture.

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