

ZMATH 2016e.00757

Sprows, David

When in doubt, add zero or multiply by one.

Math. Comput. Educ. 50, No. 2, 106-108 (2016).

From the text: In this note we consider a classroom unit designed to show students that the technique of adding zero or multiplying by one using appropriate expressions can often be the best way of solving a given problem. In particular, such a technique should not be considered a “trick”, but another useful tool.

Classification: H20 H30 I40 I50 F50

Keywords: manipulation of expressions; problem-solving strategies; modular arithmetic; divisibility; modular equivalence; quadratic equations; completing the square; adding zero; integral calculus; arctan function; derivation of the derivative of a product; indefinite integrals; substitution; multiplying by one; complex numbers; chain rule in derivation