

## Heuristics

**heuristics**, the problem-solving procedure that involves conceiving a hypothetical answer to a problem at the outset of an inquiry for purposes of giving guidance or direction to the inquiry. It consists of (1) developing a conception of what one expects to discover, (2) using that conception to guide one in seeking, selecting, and assigning meaning to facts, and (3) continually developing new, more adequate conceptions as the discovery and interpretation of facts proceeds. Advocates of the procedure contend that all scientific knowledge is acquired in this manner and that all knowledge is relative, tentative, dubitable, and ever subject to change, there being no end to the heuristic process.

*Encyclopedia Britannica*

WordNet provides alternative definitions for Heuristic, as a noun and as an adjective:

*The noun heuristic has 1 sense*

- 1. **heuristic, heuristic rule, heuristic program** -- (a commonsense rule (or set of rules) intended to increase the probability of solving some problem)

*The adj heuristic has 2 senses (no senses from tagged texts)*

- Sense 1:

**heuristic** -- ((computer science) relating to or using a **heuristic rule**) Pertains to noun **heuristic** (Sense 1)

**heuristic, heuristic rule, heuristic program** -- (a commonsense rule (or set of rules) intended to increase the probability of solving some problem)

rule, formula -- ((mathematics) a standard procedure for solving a class of problems; ``*he determined the upper bound with Descartes' rule of signs*"; "*he gave us a general formula for attacking polynomials*")

- Sense 2:

**heuristic** (vs. algorithmic) -- (of or relating to a general formulation that serves to guide investigation)

trial-and-error -- (relating to solving problems by experience rather than theory; ``*they adopted a trial-and-error procedure*" )

We will use "heuristic" as an adjective throughout this Website, adopting the first sense offered, specifically:

*heuristic, heuristic rule, heuristic program -- (a commonsense rule (or set of rules) intended to increase the probability of solving some problem)*

PdK Consulting focuses on Workplace performance optimization and on measuring the resulting performance improvements.

Using the "Balanced Scorecard", PdK identifies work group performance variables and establishes baseline performance measures. PdK develops a Workplace Strategy and a detailed Action Map with accountabilities and schedules aimed at:

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- ◆ Developing processes for continuing improvements
- ◆ Deploying knowledge supporting technologies
- ◆ Enabling behavior changes increasing performance

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