## Common Mathematical Errors

## Dividing By Zero

Research: What happened on the USS Yorktown on September, 21, 1997? Why did this occur?

Improperly calculating the positive and negative of a square root Joe had 100 square feet of wood flooring material. Each wood tile is 1 square foot. He wants to fill his 10 foot by 10 foot bedroom with wood tiles. Joe calculates that he would need -10 tiles along each wall. What mistake did Joe make? Why is this measurement impossible to begin with?

## Rewriting Things

Why are all of these statements true, and of equal value?
$1+1=2 \quad 2=2 \quad 2=1+1$

## Factoring

The TRUE statement $\left(b^{2}-16\right)(32)=3.4$ was simplified to $(32)(b-4)(b+4)=3.4$. What makes this statement true and (32)(b-4*b+4)=3.4 false?

