

# PROBLEMS TO SOLUTIONS

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A Short Exercise in Building an Algorithm

# Exercise: Making a Cup of Tea



- Get into small groups of 3 or 4 and write down the steps that you need to do in order to make a cup of tea
- Use a sequence of simple statements like 'Boil Water' or 'Put Milk in Cup'
- Try and put down an appropriate level of detail so that a person could follow your instructions unambiguously
- Can you group certain steps together (for example, are the first few about preparation)? Give these groups sensible names.

# Swap with Another Group

- Take a look at the tea-making instructions of another group
- Annotate their instructions if:
  - Any instruction is ambiguous
  - They have missed something out
  - They have made an assumption
  - They have created a group that doesn't make sense to you
- Also if they have done anything you really like :-)



# Go Back to Your Own Instructions



- Take a few moments to see what they have said
  - Are the comments fair?
  - Any unexpected ones?
  - Would you make any changes now you have seen someone else's instructions?