Claim: for all $a, b, c, n \in \mathbb{Z}, n > 0$: $a \equiv b \pmod{n} \rightarrow a + c \equiv b + c \pmod{n}$

Before we start, we must know:

1. What every word in the statement means.
2. What the statement as a whole means.
3. Where to start.
4. What your target is.

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Divides

For integers x, y we say $x|y$ ("x divides y") iff there is an integer z such that $xz = y$.

Equivalence in modular arithmetic

Let $a \in \mathbb{Z}, b \in \mathbb{Z}, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $n > 0$.
We say $a \equiv b \ (mod\ n)$ if and only if $n|(b - a)$

Another Proof

For all integers, a, b, c: Show that if $a \nmid (bc)$ then $a \nmid b$ or $a \nmid c$.

A bad proof

Claim: if x is positive then $x + 5 = -x - 5$.

$x + 5 = -x - 5$

$|x + 5| = |-x - 5|$

$|x + 5| = |-(x + 5)|$

$|x + 5| = |x + 5|$

$0 = 0$

This claim is **false** – if you're trying to do algebra, you need to start with an equation you know (say $x = x$ or $2 = 2$ or $0 = 0$) and expand to the equation you want.

More proofs

Show that if $a \equiv b (mod\ n)$ and $c \equiv d\ (mod\ n)$ then $ac \equiv bd\ (mod\ n)$.

Step 1: What do the words mean?

Step 2: What does the statement as a whole say?

Step 3: Where do we start?

Step 4: What's our target?

Step 5: Now prove it.