

## MISTAKES IN CLASS

### Mistakes of pupils

How the society perceives mistakes (Hejný, 2004)

Mistake is...	Reaction of	
	a pupil	a teacher
undesirable	fear and defence	punishment
undesirable	defence, sometimes increased effort	persuasion, encouragement
part of a life	searching for the cause of the mistake, correction	helping pupil to find the cause of the mistake, encourages him/her
part of a life	searching for the cause of the mistake	helping pupil to find the cause of the mistake

*How pupils recognize and eliminate mistakes:*

1. recognition of a mistake,
2. localization of the mistake,
3. factual analysis of the mistake (Why is this wrong? What is it connected with?)
4. elimination of the mistake,
5. process analysis of mistake,
6. deduction of advice for the future.

*How can teacher help pupil identify a mistake?*

1. The teacher can give similar task leading to easily recognizable mistake to pupil and let him/her to find the mistake on his/her own.
2. If the first advice does not help, the teacher can use some of the following strategies.
  - a) expressing uncertainty,
  - b) help with localization of the mistake,
  - c) giving tasks that would advise him/her,
  - d) in case of the mistake because of lack of the previous knowledge – diagnosis and then re-education,
  - e) after correction teacher asks pupil to identify the reason of making the mistake,
  - f) pupil who describes the reason of making a mistake deduces advice for the future.

*How can teacher work with mistakes of weak learner?*

5 basic advices what teacher should do:

1. believe that he/she can help the pupil,
2. give some task the pupil can solve,
3. try to understand the reactions of the pupils,
4. try to understand that pupil is confused by various information,
5. lead pupils to experience the pleasure of overcoming obstacles.

### **Mistakes of teachers**

Four groups of mistakes teachers claimed to do during lessons:

1. Insufficient communication pupils, almost all of the time speaks the teacher.
2. Not paying attention to weak learners.
3. Paying the most of the teacher's attention to weak learners.
4. Control and assessment of the work of pupils.

*Why have teachers still been making mistakes, if they know how they behave?*

Three main reasons:

- focus on Mathematics, not on pupils,
- tradition,
- outside pressure.