

5 Why Analysis & Root Cause

Problems happen every day and it is up to Industrial Engineers to understand why! Problems are not solved properly unless you understand why they are occurring. The reason for a problem is called the problem's root cause. The root cause can be found by utilizing a method called the 5 whys. Watch the videos below to learn about the 5 Whys!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7cR2gArCFE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrlYkx41wEE>

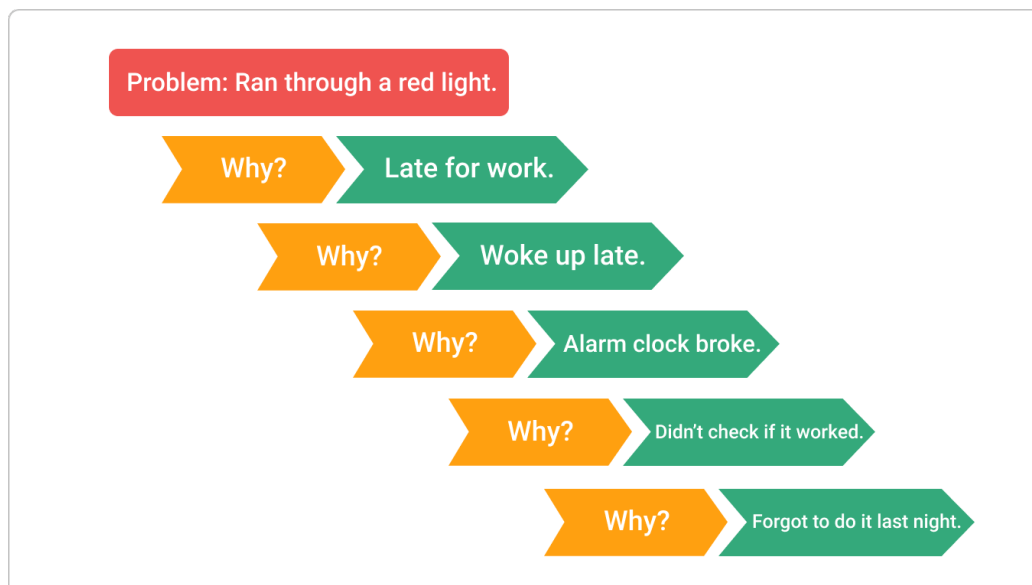


When the 5 why method is not used to solve the problem, the problem happens again because the root cause was not found!

Example: Here is an example of a 5 Why Analysis that was used to figure out why someone ran through a red light.

Problem: Ran Through a Red Light

Root Cause: Forgot to check to see if their alarm clock was working.



Activity 1: Have there been any times in your life where you thought you solved a problem, but it happened again? Write it down.

Activity 2: Now take the problem you came up with in Activity 1 and complete a **5 Why Analysis** of the problem to find the root cause. What do you suggest as a solution? Use the example to help set up your 5 Why Analysis.