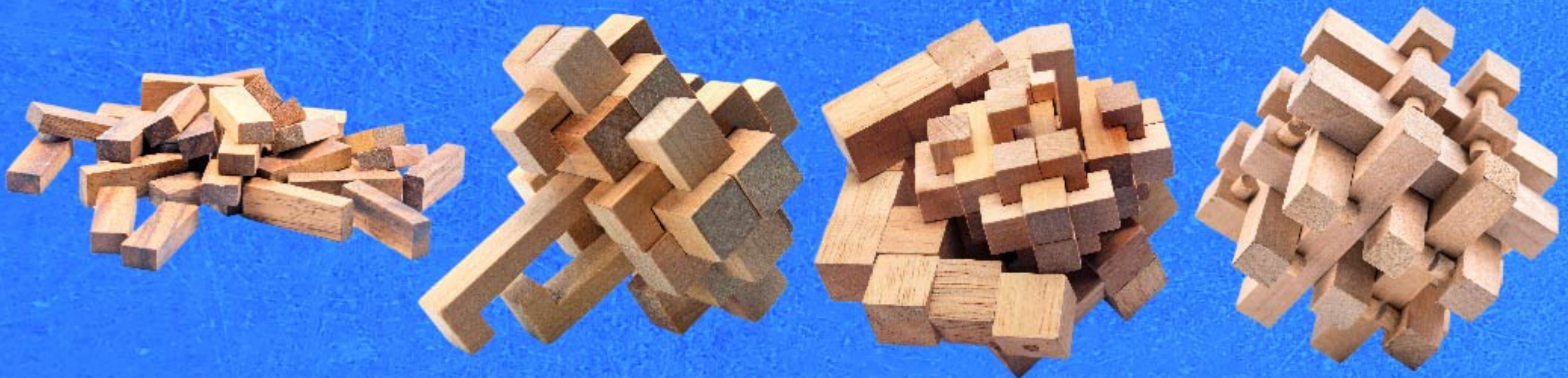


The 4 stages of successful problem solving

Find out how a structured approach gets better answers and develops new strengths



McKinsey
& Company

1. Defining phase

Why?

Ensure the team and stakeholders are aligned on the problem they are trying to solve

How?

Debate
as a team

Define the core
problem

Agree on outside
vs. inside scope
items



2. Structuring phase

Why?

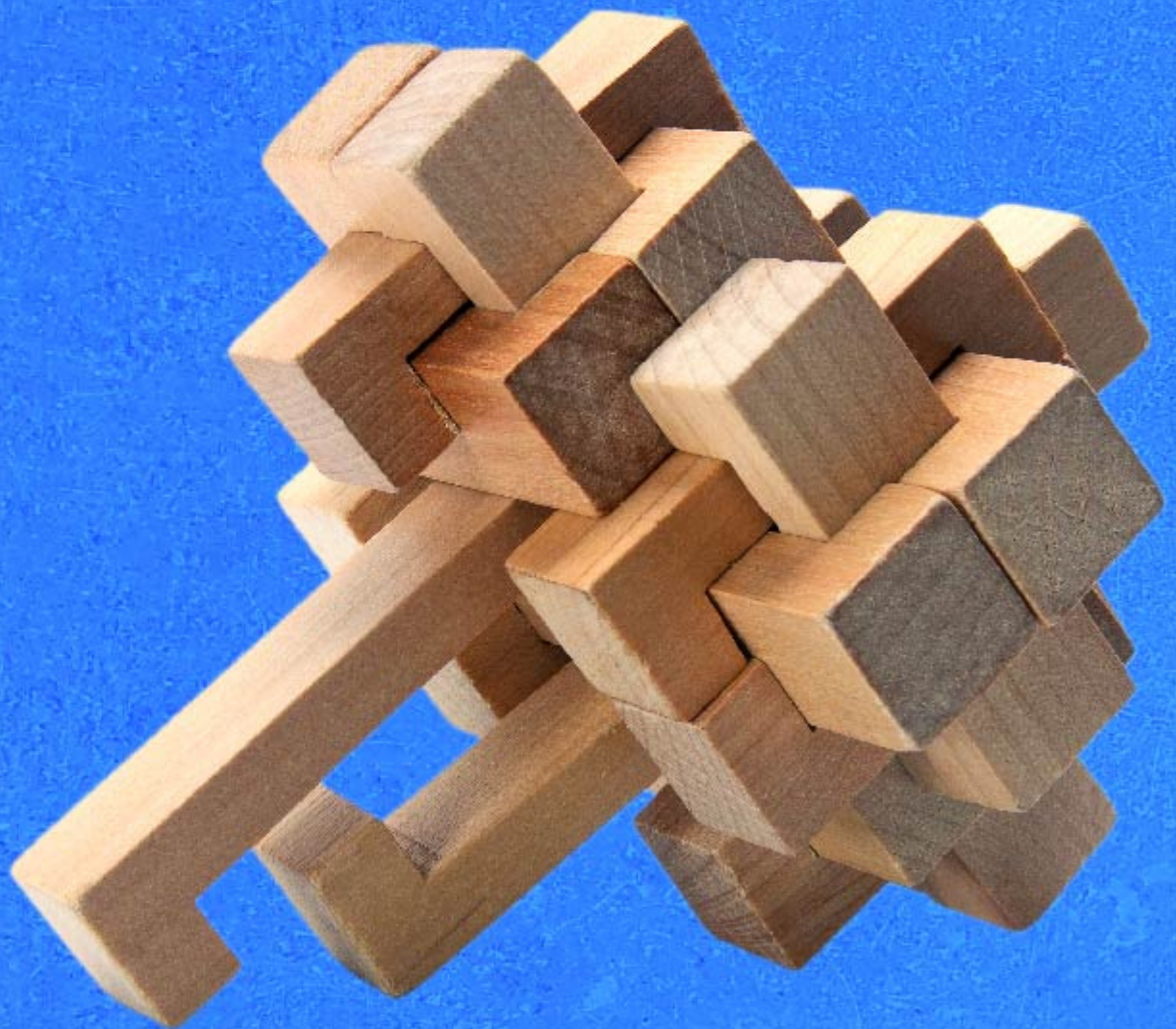
Bring the right problem solving approach and focus to the situation

How?

Decide on methodology

Identify issues and organize them

Prioritize select issues to dig deeper into



3. Analyzing phase

Why?

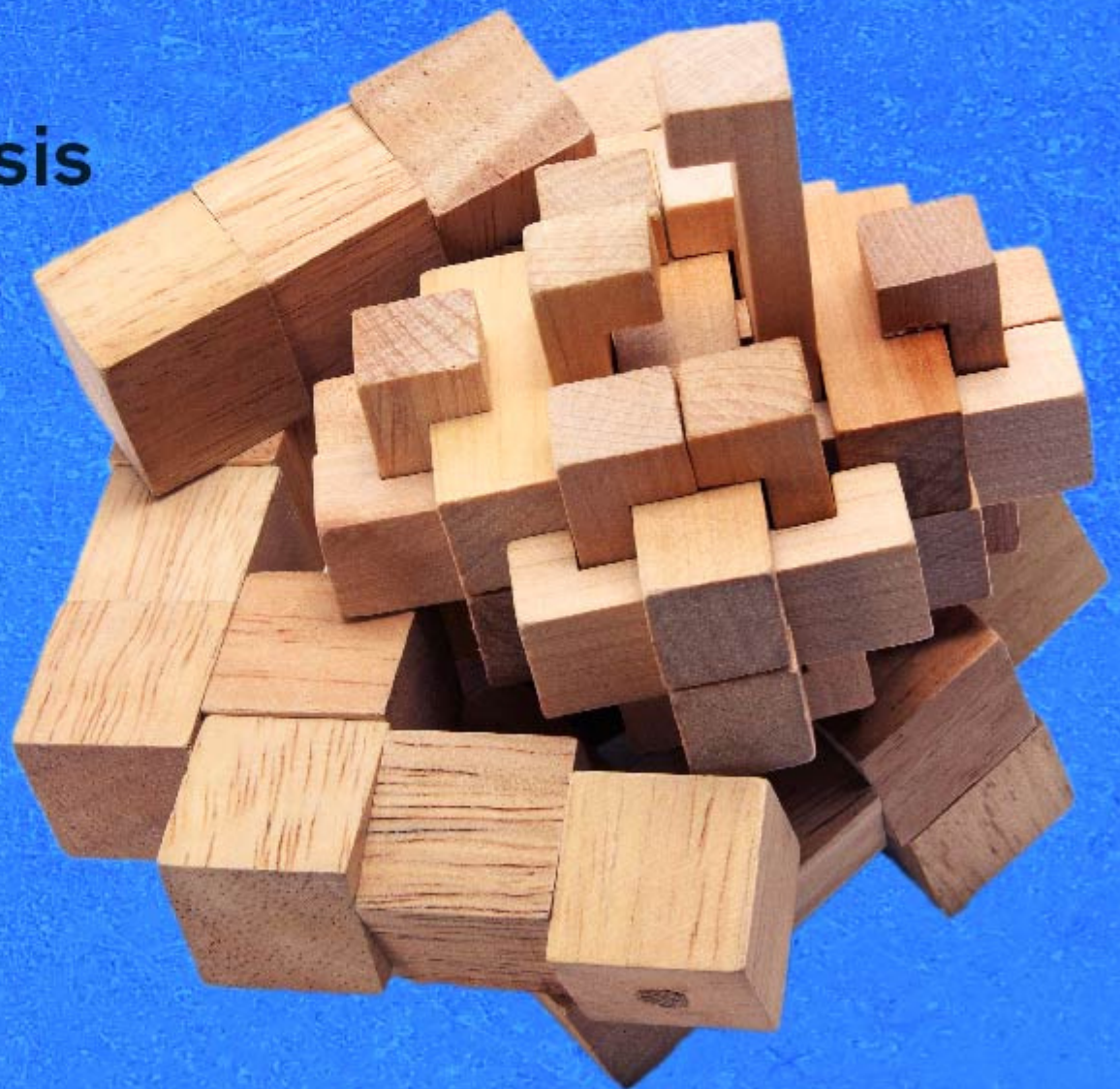
Avoid getting lost in data
and ensure reliable results

How?

Plan specific analysis
before jumping in

Decide which
analytical tools
to use

Ensure rigor



4. Synthesizing phase

Why?

Make recommendations more likely to be understood and implemented

How?

Synthesize the most important findings

Develop a recommendation

Engage and leverage leadership



Boost your career with our Forward steps

[McKinsey.com/Forward](https://mckinsey.com/Forward)

McKinsey
& Company