During a lecture a teacher talks to the whole class. When grading a student’s paper, the teacher writes the remarks for this individual student. Therefore it is important to understand what’s written in red ink and make use of it.

In many cases, there is no way a teacher can write a lengthy explanation of every mistake made in the paper, so we need a system of shortcuts. For that reason I will use the following signs:

7 This is your grade for the problem. A similar note on the top of the first page is your total grade. I always have a grading scheme for each problem, meaning each part of the problem has a predetermined value and each mistake has a predetermined negative value. This scheme is applied to all papers and is never negotiable.

V This sign comes from the picture of a dove which is a symbol of peace. Means the formula is correct and appreciated. All these checks contribute to the partial credit for the problem. (Problem which obtained the full credit will have no red ink marks!)

V This sign comes from the picture of a dove with a cloud above. Means the step is done correctly and is appreciated (but there was a mistake earlier, which made the final answer wrong). This sign also indicates what the partial credit is given for.

X This originates from the picture of a skull (which is missing) and two bones (which became the cross), this picture is sometimes used to mark a dangerous place (usually high voltage). If next to a particular number or letter, then it means this letter/number is wrong. If next to a line, then the whole line is wrong. Based on the crosses I make subtractions from the grade.

? Usually I can guess from a paper the way a student was thinking even if it was a completely wrong way. Sometimes though I get puzzled and then I use this sign. Then I assume the worst case scenario and the grade will reflect that...

! The meaning of this mark comes from the fact that the exclamation sign is used in imperative sentences. In red ink it means the mistake is conceptual (not just a mix-up) and I strongly recommend to pay special attention to the problem.

😊 The smiley face of means I am happy with your effort!

😢 The sad face means “too bad” and is most often used as a joke.

Take advantage of the grading!!!