

Directions for Writing Proofs

- Write the statement to be proved.
- Clearly mark the beginning of your proof with the word *Proof*.
- Make your proof self-contained:
 - Identify each variable used in the body of the proof;
 - Introduce only necessary variables and notation;
 - Use Lemmas to show significant but related ideas.
- Write proofs in complete (English) sentences.

Common Mistakes

- Arguing from examples;
- Using the same letter to mean different things;
- Jumping to a conclusion;
- Begging the question (i.e. assuming true that which you want to prove);
- Using *if* when you mean *since*, *hence*, *thus*, *therefore*, *hencely*, *thusly*, *hereforthwith*, etc.