

Re: David's letter to sci.math

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DavidBowman:

>*The really bizarre-ass thing is,*
>*I'm dead serious about that.*
>*I feel "insufficient" and stupid.*
>*And in the unlikely case that*
>*anyone wants to know why I*
>*get angry when the normals*
>*call me "smart", that's it.*

There is only one cure for that: work problems – lots of them. No matter who explains it to you in the context of answering your question, you will never understand how to answer each new question you have unless you start answering some questions yourself. The only way to do that and be confident that you're answers aren't completely misguided, is to begin with questions from a textbook. Struggling to relate the material in the textbook to the problems in the textbook works wonders. Once you can answer a fair number of textbook questions – in detail – you should be fairly confident in knowing whether or not you understand how to answer the ones you think of yourself.