1067-W1-1531 **Stuart Anderson*** (stuart_anderson@tamu-commerce.edu), 3000 South Neal, Commerce, TX 75429. *From Babylonian Table Texts to Abstractions.*

A common occurrence in beginning algebra courses is for a student to "guess" the correct answer to a problem. This can cause the student to be reluctant to learn more abstract methods that would apply to many similar problems. This paper uses an examination of ancient Babylonian table texts, and modern spread sheets, to demonstrate the need to progress from trial and error to more advanced forms of problem solving. (Received September 21, 2010)