

1. Let $a \in \mathbb{Z}$. Show that if a divided by 5 leaves a remainder of 2 then $5|(a^2 - 4)$.
Proof: We have $a = 5k + 2$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and so $a^2 - 4 = (5k + 2)^2 - 4 = 25k^2 + 20k = 5(5k^2 + 4k) = 5b$ for $b = 5k^2 + 4k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and so $5|(a^2 - 4)$.
2. Let $m \in \mathbb{Z}$. Prove if $3 \nmid m$ then $3 \nmid m^2$.
Proof: If $3 \nmid m$ then either $m = 3n + 1$ or $m = 3n + 2$ with $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.
Case 1: If $m = 3n + 1$ then $m^2 = 9n^2 + 6n + 1 = 3(3n^2 + 2n) + 1$ so $3 \nmid m^2$.
Case 2: If $m = 3n + 2$ then $m^2 = 9n^2 + 12n + 4 = 3(3n^2 + 4n + 1) + 1$ so $3 \nmid m^2$.
3. Prove or provide a counterexample: Let $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$. If $a|bc$ then either $a|b$ or $a|c$.
Proof: False. For example if $a = 6$, $b = 2$ and $c = 3$ then $a|bc$ but $a \nmid b$ and $a \nmid c$.
4. Let $a \in \mathbb{Z}$. Prove that $a^3 \equiv a \pmod{3}$.
Proof: We have either $a \equiv 0, 1, 2 \pmod{3}$.
Case 1: If $a \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ then $a = 3k$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and so $a^3 - a = 27k^3 - 3k = 3(9k^3 - k)$ and so $a^3 \equiv a \pmod{3}$.
Case 2: If $a \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ then $a = 3k + 1$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and so $a^3 - a = 27k^3 + 27k^2 + 6k = 3(9k^3 + 9k^2 + 2k)$ and so $a^3 \equiv a \pmod{3}$.
Case 3: If $a \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ then $a = 3k + 2$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and so $a^3 - a = 27k^3 + 54k^2 + 33k + 6 = 3(9k^3 + 18k^2 + 11k + 2)$ and so $a^3 \equiv a \pmod{3}$.
We see in all cases that $a^3 \equiv a \pmod{3}$.
5. Show that if $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ then $a^2 \not\equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ and $a^2 \not\equiv 3 \pmod{4}$.
Proof: We have either $a \equiv 0, 1, 2, 3 \pmod{4}$.
Case 1: If $a \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ then $a = 4k$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and so $a^2 = 16k^2 = 4(4k^2)$ and so $a^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$.
Case 2: If $a \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ then $a = 4k + 1$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and so $a^2 = 16k^2 + 8k + 1 = 4(4k^2 + 2k) + 1$ and so $a^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$.
Case 3: If $a \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ then $a = 4k + 2$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and so $a^2 = 16k^2 + 16k + 4 = 4(4k^2 + 4k + 1)$ and so $a^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$.
Case 4: If $a \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ then $a = 4k + 3$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and so $a^2 = 16k^2 + 24k + 9 = 4(4k^2 + 6k + 2) + 1$ and so $a^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$.
We see in all cases that $a^2 \not\equiv 2, 3 \pmod{4}$.