Algorithms represent mental technology of problem solving.
Working definition:

An *algorithm* is a system of feasible instructions for (aimed at) solving some problem.
A more general definition:

An *algorithm* is a finite constructive description of a process for (aimed at) solving some problem.
An even more general definition:

An algorithm is a finite constructive structure that defines a process for (aimed at) solving some problem.

Constructive means that using this description (structure), an automaton (computer) can perform actions prescribed by the algorithm.

The description, e.g., a system of instructions, is a representation of an algorithm.
Why “for solving” and not ”of solving”?

Because in a general case, we cannot know if the algorithm actually solves the assigned problem.

*Complete* or *total algorithm* always solves its problem.

When an algorithm is defined for all its acceptable inputs, then it is called *total*. 