

Interpreting Word Problems



Steps & Tips

6-Step Problem Solving Strategy

1. Visualize/Sketch

This contextualizes the numbers, which helps you to understand the problem, and judge your answer's reasonableness.

2. Determine the operation. *Think: Which operations give me a reasonable solution?*

Because you have context, you can tell what you should do with the numbers to find your solution.

3. Write an equation.

Show exactly how you plan to work with the numbers in the problem

4. Make an estimate.

Do not solve the problem here!

5. Solve the problem.

Show all your work. If necessary, explain the steps. If another sketch will help you solve the problem, do another one!

6. Is your answer reasonable? Why or why not?

Thinking about all the steps you've done so far (especially steps 1 and 4), think critically about your answer, and explain why it makes sense.

At a picnic, 12 people shared
4 large sandwiches equally.
How much of a sandwich did
each person get to eat?

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3. Write an equation.

4. Make an estimate.

5. Solve the problem.

6. Is your answer reasonable? Why or why not?

One-third of the students in Mrs. Cashin's homeroom play soccer at recess. Of those students, two-fifths also play soccer on a team outside of school. What fraction of students in Mrs. Cashin's class play soccer at recess and on a team?

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6. Is your answer reasonable? Why or why not?