SOLVING WORD PROBLEMS

1. **Read the Problem Enough Times**
   Enough times means the number of times it takes you to understand the problem.

2. **Decide What is Given and What is Being Asked**
   All problems give necessary information and ask a question.

3. **Cross Out Unnecessary Information**
   Some problems contain extraneous (unnecessary) information.

4. **Begin To Make A Transition From Words To Symbols**
   Start to write something on paper-draw pictures or diagrams.

5. **Use of a Table Might Be Helpful**
   Some problems (distance/rate/time, mixture) require tables.

6. **Write a Math Statement (Equation)**
   Translate words to math symbols.

7. **Solve the Math Statement (Equation)**
   Use algebraic rules, concepts. Do it carefully.

8. **Apply the Answer From the Equation to the Word Problem**
   For example: \( x = 2 \) might mean the width is 2 cm or John is 2 years old.

9. **Check the Answer in the Word Problem**
   Answers from incorrect math equations are usually wrong.

10. **Be Sure the Answer Makes Sense**
    For example: Does the speed of a car equal 750 mph sound reasonable?