



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?