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•••• Apply Problem-Solving Techniques with Single-Step Problems

Facts to Know

Solving word problems isn't a matter of luck or guesswork. You just have to do the work step by step following a simple plan like this one.

Use this simple Five-Step Plan to help you solve the word problems in this book.

Five-Step Plan

1. *Read the problem carefully.*
 2. *State the problem to be solved.*
 3. *Determine the operation to be used.*
 4. *Do the operation.*
 5. *Check the answer to see if it is reasonable.*
- ★★★★ Don't skip any steps! ★★★★★

1. **Read the problem carefully.** Check the meaning of words you don't know. You may need to read the problem again perhaps more slowly. Read the problem in parts—either every few words or every sentence. Use periods and commas as a guide.
2. **State the problem to be solved.** Restate the problem in your own words. Use the fewest possible words to describe what you have to find out. Talk it out with yourself or write it out in one or two sentences.
3. **Determine the operation to be used.** There are only four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Use the Code Word list to help you. Choose the most likely operation using all the clues you have found.
4. **Do the operation.** Check to see that no careless errors have been made and that your math facts are accurate.
5. **Check the answer to see if it is reasonable.** Compare your answer to the original problem to see if it makes sense.

Code Words

Study the words listed below each operation and use this list when you are doing the problems in this book. These words usually—but not always—indicate the operation to be used.

Addition +	Subtraction –	Multiplication x	Division ÷
<i>altogether</i>	<i>change</i>	<i>times</i>	<i>split evenly</i>
<i>in all</i>	<i>how much more</i>	<i>compute the area</i>	<i>divided by</i>
<i>sum</i>	<i>difference</i>	<i>product</i>	<i>quotient</i>
<i>perimeter</i>	<i>how much less</i>	<i>find the volume</i>	<i>find the average</i>
<i>entire cost</i>	<i>how many fewer</i>	<i>percent</i>	<i>batting average</i>
<i>total</i>	<i>minus</i>	<i>times as many as</i>	<i>passing percentage</i>
<i>total cost</i>	<i>how much left</i>	<i>% of discount</i>	<i>shared evenly</i>
	<i>how much saved</i>	<i>% of tax</i>	
	<i>how much taller</i>		
	<i>how much older</i>		

Five-Step Plan

1. Read the problem carefully.
2. State the problem to be solved.
3. Determine the operation to be used.
4. Do the operation.
5. Check the answer to see if it is reasonable.

Directions: Use the Five-Step Plan and the Code Words from page 5 to help you solve the following word problems.

1. You gave a clerk a \$10.00 bill to pay for a pair of socks that cost \$7.88. How much change should you receive?

I have to find out: _____

Operation to use: _____

Answer: _____

2. Robin's mother bought 16 burger and fry combos at the Burger Barn for a party. Each combo cost \$2.29. How much did she spend?

I have to find out: _____

Operation to use: _____

Answer: _____

3. Mike and 7 friends were given a huge box containing 224 old baseball cards. Mike divided the cards evenly among all 8 friends. How many cards did each person receive?

I have to find out: _____

Operation to use: _____

Answer: _____

4. Kevin has saved \$49.67 toward a new skateboard. The board he wants costs \$60.00. How much more money does he need?

I have to find out: _____

Operation to use: _____

Answer: _____

5. Mary bought some tennis shoes for \$59.67, a pair of jeans for \$29.95, and a watch for \$39.55. How much money did Mary spend in all?

I have to find out: _____

Operation to use: _____

Answer: _____

6. Rachel bought a CD on sale by her favorite group for \$15.78. It usually sells for \$17.99. How much did she save at the sale price?

I have to find out: _____

Operation to use: _____

Answer: _____

7. Gas sells for \$1.89 a gallon. How much will it cost to buy 22 gallons at this price?

I have to find out: _____

Operation to use: _____

Answer: _____

