

Writing Equations from Word Problems

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will translate real-world word problems into equations and solve them.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Index cards (5)
- Pencil
- Notebook paper
- A household receipt or price list (optional, real or made up)

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Look at a real or made-up receipt/price list and write 3 original word problems based on the prices (example: 'Sam buys some notebooks at \$3 each plus a \$2 folder, spending \$17 total. How many notebooks did Sam buy?').
2. Write each word problem on the front of an index card.
3. On the back of each card, write the equation that represents the problem and solve it step by step on notebook paper.
4. Underline the key words in each word problem that told you which operation to use (e.g., 'total,' 'each,' 'plus').
5. Trade your 3 word-problem cards with a family member or read them aloud, and see if they can write and solve the correct equation.

QUESTIONS

1. Write one of your word problems and its matching equation.

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2. Solve the equation from your first question, showing every step.

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3. What key words in your word problems helped you decide whether to add, subtract, multiply, or divide?
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4. Does your answer make sense in the real-world context of the problem? Explain.
