

Steps to Solving Word Problems

1. +Read the question carefully several times and understand the key words.
2. Figure out what is given and what is unknown.
3. Search for information to relate relevant data to the unknown.
4. Use strategies to solve such as:
 - a. Draw a diagram or model draw
 - b. Guess and check with logical thinking
 - c. Simplify the problem, use tabulation or look for a pattern
 - d. Think of a related problem
 - e. Describe the problem in your own words
5. Read the question again to make sure that you used all the relevant data.
6. Apply the strategies and monitor your progress by checking each step carefully.
7. Check the result. Is it reasonable? Does it make sense?
8. Write your answer in sentence form.
9. In learning to solve problems, it is important to take time to think about what you have done. At the end of each problem, ask yourself some of the following questions:
 - a. What strategies did I use? Why?
 - b. What did I do when I got stuck? Which strategy helped me to move forward?
 - c. Did I check my work carefully?
 - d. What kind of mistakes did I make?