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Examples of Strategies

Drawing a Diagram

Drawing a diagram or picture can help you "see" a problem more clearly. Diagrams and pictures help you keep track of information in problems that take more than one step to solve. When drawing one, make sure all elements of the problem are included.

Example 1

What's the Problem?

Three toys are sitting in a row. The teddy bear is in the middle. The toy car is to the left of the teddy bear. The ball is to the right of the teddy bear.

What is the order of the toys from left to right?

_____

Work It Out

Left Right

Write About It

To solve the problem, a student might draw a picture of a toy car, teddy bear, and ball, using the order given in the problem. The student would then answer the question by recording the order of toys.

Drawing a diagram or picture can help visual learners process word problems.

Example 2

What's the Problem?

There are 3 trees. Each tree has 2 apples.

How many apples in all?

_____

Work It Out

2 (apples) + 2 (apples) + 2 (apples) = 6

Write About It

To solve the problem, a student might draw a picture of three trees, each one with two apples on it. The student would then answer the question by counting the apples on the trees.

Warm-Up 17

What's the Problem?

Marcie had a pie. She made 1 straight cut across the pie and ended up with 2 pieces.

If Marcie made 3 straight cuts across the pie, how many pieces of pie would she have?

_____

REMINDER

A drawing or diagram can help you "see" the problem more clearly. You can use simple pictures or symbols. Diagrams and pictures help you keep track of information in problems that take more than one step to solve.

Work It Out

2 3 + 1 9 = 7

Write About It

Warm-Up 69

What's the Problem?

Work It Out

Serena drew 31 stars. Then she circled sets of 10 stars.

How many sets of 10 stars did Serena circle?

_____

How many stars were left?

_____

WRITE ABOUT IT

_____

_____

Warm-Up 70

What's the Problem?

Work It Out

Joshua had 45 checkers. He put the checkers into stacks of 10.

How many stacks of 10 checkers did Joshua make?

_____

How many checkers were left?

_____

WRITE ABOUT IT

_____

_____