

Solutions are at the end of this file.

Multistep Word Problems

The *Student Text* includes some fairly simple two step word problems. Some students may be ready for more challenging problems. Here are a few to try, along with some tips for solving this kind of problem. You may want to read and discuss these with your student as you work out the solutions together. Again, the purpose is to stretch, not to frustrate. If you do not think the student is ready, you may want to come back to these later.

There are more multistep word problems in Lessons 21 and 27 of the *Teacher Manual*. The answers are at the end of the solutions at the back of this book.

- 1) David has a rectangular garden that measures 11 feet by 13 feet. He wants to plant peas in his garden. Dad said that one seed packet will be enough to fill a space 10 feet on a side. Will David's garden have enough space to plant 2 seed packets?

Although the problem asks only one question, there are other questions that must be answered first. The key to solving this is determining what the unstated questions are. Since the final question is really asking for a comparison of the available area to the needed area, the two unstated questions are: "What is the area of David's garden?" and, "What is the area needed for two seed packets?"

You might make a list of steps something like this:

- 1) area of garden in square feet?
- 2) area needed for one seed packet?
- 3) area needed for two seed packets?
- 4) compare areas to answer question

- 2) Rachel and Sarah started out to visit Grandma. They drove for 50 miles and stopped to rest before driving for 30 more miles. They decided to go back 10 miles to a restaurant they had seen. After leaving the restaurant, they drove 80 more miles to Grandma's house. How many miles did the girls drive on the way to Grandma's house?

Make a drawing, and this will be easier to solve!

- 3) Rachel and Sarah spent \$8 for gasoline, \$15.65 for their lunch, and \$5 apiece for gifts for Grandma. Grandma gave each of them \$10. If the girls left home with a total of \$50, how much do they have for the return trip?

This is similar to number 1 in that you must answer other questions before you can answer the question in the problem.