

Strategy for Solving Word Problems

1. Read the problem until you understand it.
2. List quantities involved; then identify those that are known and those that are sought.
Alternative: Prepare a table.
3. Make a sketch if necessary.
4. Write relationships among variables in pseudocode. (*Pseudocode* is a mixture of English and of mathematical symbols.)
5. Denote one unknown quantity by a letter, then express other quantities in terms of it.
6. Write an equation.
7. Solve the equation.
8. Check your answer **by reference to the original problem.**