

Literacy Strategy

Word Problem Comprehension

Using a single word problem as the text can help students who find working with comprehension of word problems difficult. Before reading the problem, possible solution approaches for the problem are given. Only one solution process is correct and in the correct order. The student then follows these steps:

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Three Steps to Comprehending Word Problems:

- 1. Read** the problem
- 2. Examine** the solutions
- 3. Circle** the correct answer

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This type of instruction allows the student to focus on how to solve for the answer rather than simply to interpret the word problem. The strategy should begin as a large group activity featuring open discussion of the process and teacher modeling. As interpretation of word problems becomes more familiar, then small group work should be introduced, followed by individual work.



Comprehending