

Math 172 – Section 2.3: Word Problems Strategy

Strategy for solving word problems:

1. Read the problem!
2. Draw a diagram, if appropriate.
3. Define your variables, either
 - using “let” statements
 - on a clearly labeled diagram
 - in a clearly labeled table
4. Write an equation or equations.
5. Solve the equation(s).
6. Check your answer. Be sure you’ve answered the original question! Check units. Make sure your answer is reasonable.
7. Write a concluding statement. ← Pat’s special required step.