

How to Solve a Math Word Problem

Elementary school

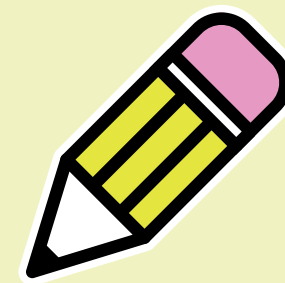
To solve a math word problem, follow these five steps:

1 Read the problem twice

While you read:

- 1) Find the important information that will help you solve the problem.
- 2) Eliminate information you don't need to solve the problem.

After you're done reading, note down only the important information you will use to solve the problem.



example

Flo is 10 years old and rides their bike in the park every afternoon after school. On Monday, Flo rode 150 m. On Tuesday, they rode 220 m. On Wednesday, they rode 305 m. On Thursday, they rode 140 m. Then, on Friday, they rode 150 m. What is the total distance that Flo traveled on their bike?

Flo is 10 years old. → **information you don't need**

Flo rides their bike on Monday, Tuesday,

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. → **important information**

150 m, 220 m, 305 m, 140 m, 150 m → **important information**

2 Analyze the problem

Use the important information to identify the question you need to answer.

What is the total distance that Flo traveled by bike?

3 Plan your process

Make a plan of the steps you will follow to solve the problem.

4 Solve the problem

Solve the problem, making sure to clearly show your work at every step.

$$150 + 220 + 305 + 140 + 150 = 965$$

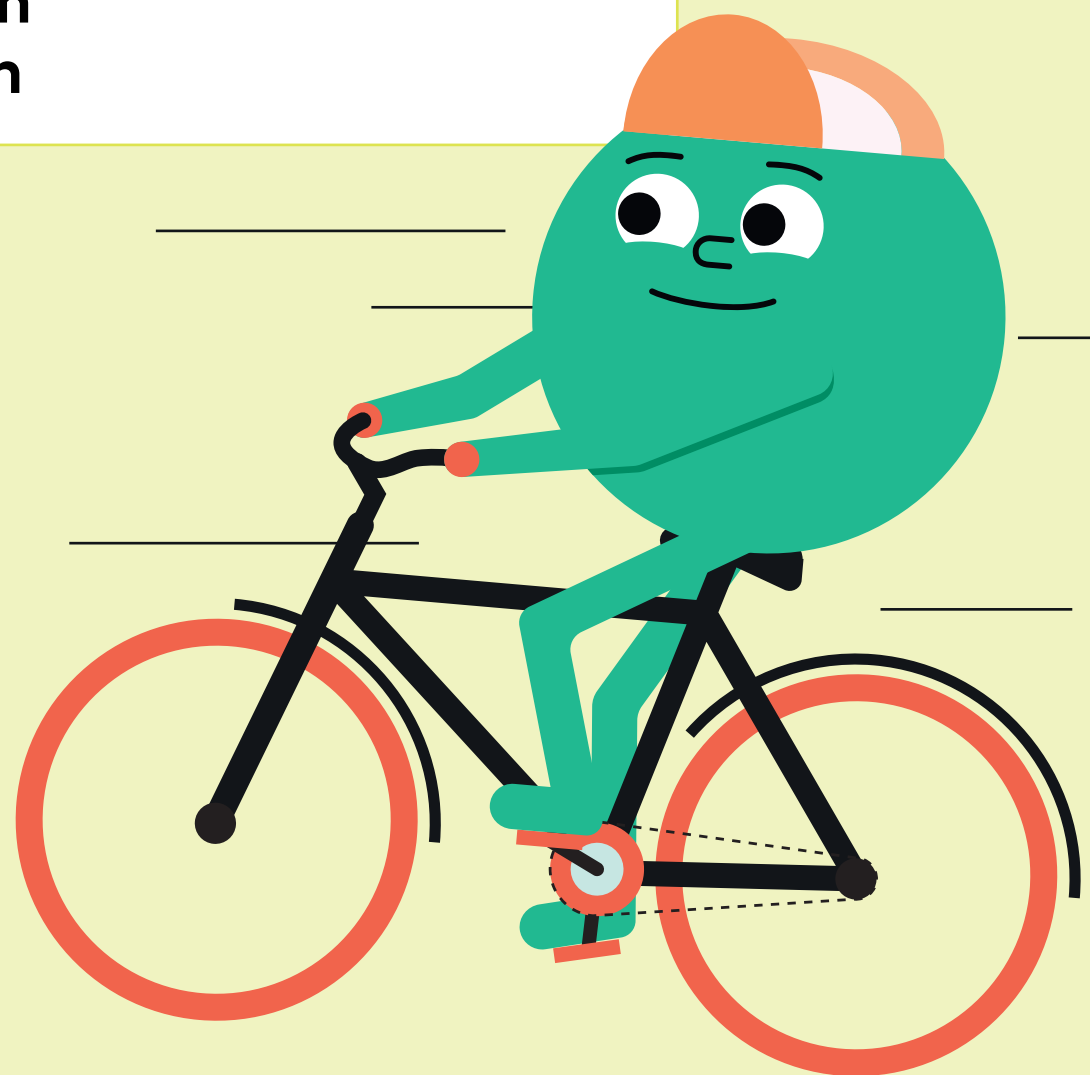
5 Check your work and write a complete answer

Check your calculations: Are they correct?

Do they make sense based on what the problem was asking?

Then write a complete answer.

Flo traveled a total distance of 965 m → If we answer only "965 m," the answer is incomplete.



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