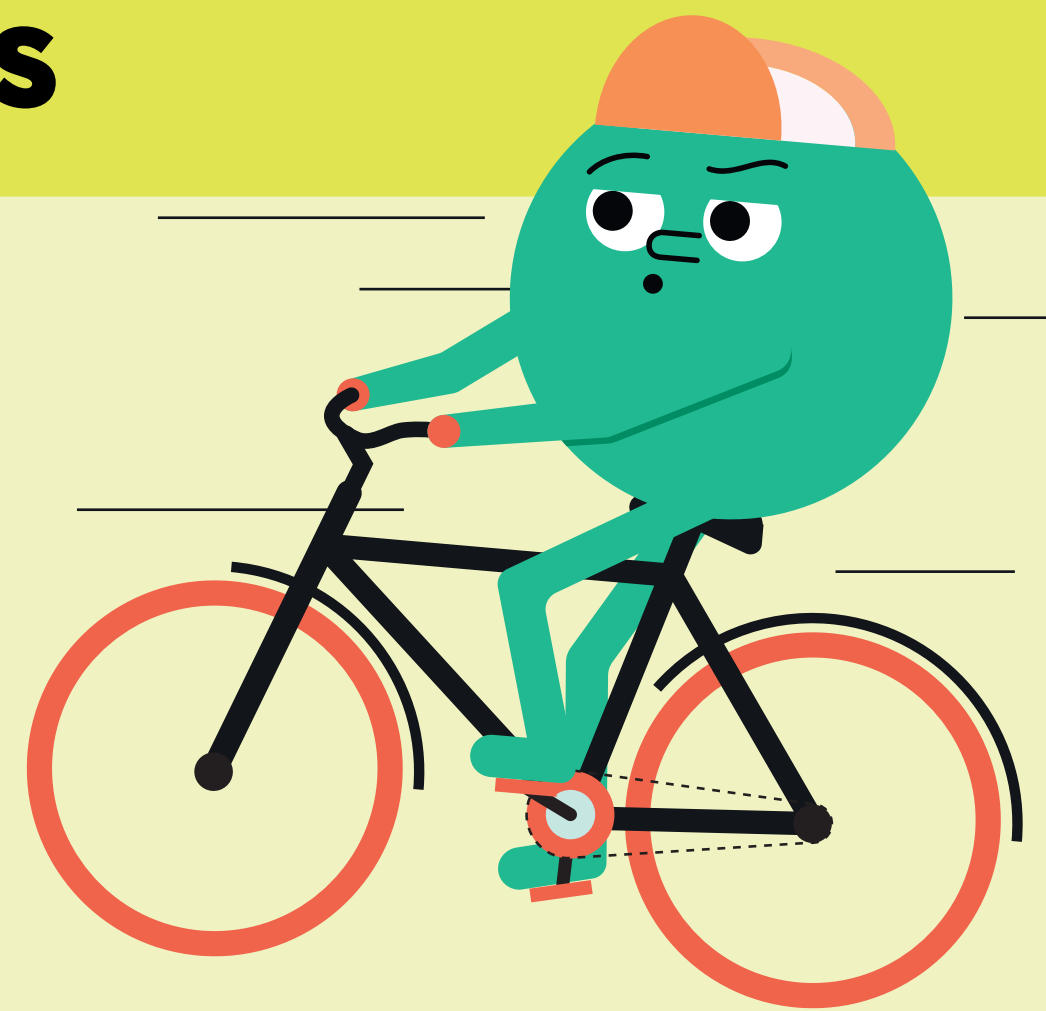


# How to Solve a Written Problem in High School Mathematics

Follow these four steps:

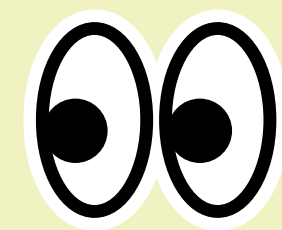


## 1 Read the problem carefully

Many written problems in mathematics contain a lot of information. Make sure to read the problem several times to ensure that you understand everything.

example

Flo is 14 years old and wants to buy a bicycle that costs \$100. They decide to save \$10 every week. How many weeks will it take Flo to save up enough money to buy the bicycle?



## 2 Identify essential information

Next, you need to do the following:

- 1) Determine the important data (information) that can be used to solve the problem.
- 2) Eliminate any unnecessary data.
- 3) Identify the question(s) you need to answer. Remember: there may be more than one question!

Flo is 14 years old. → **Unnecessary data**

They want to buy a bicycle that costs \$100. → **Essential data**

They save \$10 a week. → **Essential data**

How many weeks will it take Flo to save up enough money to buy the bicycle? → **Question**

## 3 Solve the problem

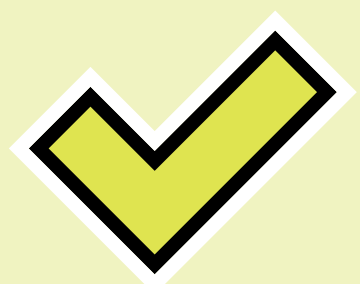
After identifying the essential data, translate the problem statement into an equation.

$$\$100 \div \$10 = \mathbf{10 \text{ weeks}}$$



## 4 Review and provide the solution

It's important to go over your work and make sure all your calculations are accurate. Then, you can answer the problem in the form of a sentence. Don't forget to specify the unit of measurement where needed.



In this example, the answer can be written as follows:  
Flo will have enough money to buy the bicycle in 10 weeks.  
→ **If you simply write "10", your answer is incomplete.**

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