



Name _____ Date _____

A Plan for Problem Solving (Pages 4–7)

You can use a four-step plan to solve a problem.

Explore	Determine what information is given in the problem and what you need to find. Do you have all of the information you need? Is there too much information?
Plan	Select a strategy for solving the problem. There may be several strategies that you could use. Estimate the answer.
Solve	Solve the problem by carrying out your plan. If your plan does not work, try another, and maybe even a third plan.
Examine	Examine the answer carefully. See if it fits the facts given in the problem. Compare it to your estimate. If your answer is not reasonable, make a new plan and start again.

EXAMPLE

Gwen must get to the airport in two hours. If she takes two busses that each take 75 minutes, will she make it in time?

Explore	You need to find out whether Gwen's bus trips will take two hours or less.
Plan	You need to find the number of hours Gwen's bus trips will take. Take the sum of the times of the bus trips and convert the minutes to hours. You estimate that the bus trips will take longer than two hours.
Solve	$75 \text{ minutes} + 75 \text{ minutes} = 150 \text{ minutes}$ $150 \text{ minutes} \div 60 \text{ minutes} = 2.5 \text{ hours}$
Examine	The bus trips will take 2.5 hours, so Gwen will not make it to the airport in time.

Try This Together

Use the four-step plan to solve each problem.

- 1. Communication** A new telephone company is gaining an average of 75 new customers a day. How many new customers are they gaining each week?

HINT: Multiply the number of customers per day by the number of days in a week.

PRACTICE

- 2. Recreation** Trejon plays basketball 4 days during the week after school and one day on the weekend. One week he played 2 fewer days than he normally would in the week. How many days did he play basketball that week?



- 3. Standardized Test Practice** Coryn went to buy her textbooks for her college math course. One book was \$35, and a second book was \$64.50. She also bought a third math book. If she spent \$130.29, what is a reasonable estimate for the cost of the third book?

A \$30.00

B \$35.00

C \$40.00

D \$25.00

Answers: 1. 525 2. 3 3. A