

## TEACHING STUDENTS TO SOLVE WORD PROBLEMS

Using the right strategies for problem solving is at least as important as getting the right answer. Students should be encouraged to reflect on how they got their answers and share their strategies with the class. The class learns that there is more than one way to get a correct answer. When they realize this, they expand their thinking.

abcteach.com features hundreds of word problems to encourage students to practice their math problem solving skills. You may use these problems in many ways, depending on the time you allow. We suggest that you never do more than a page of word problems a day. One or two problems, followed by discussion, are plenty. Do this every day and your students will become great problem solvers.

Strategies for Problem Solving: Have your students write out the problem or cut and paste the problem into a special "Problem Solving Notebook". Have them follow the steps below (a poster is available on the site with these steps).

1. Read the problem carefully.
2. Cross out unnecessary information.
3. Always show your work, don't do it in your head.
4. Don't erase your mistakes, cross out instead.
5. Draw a picture that illustrates the problem.
6. Reread your problem and check your answers.
7. Write in your own words how you got your answer.