

# Session 9: Interpreting & Solving Word Problems

# Interpreting & Solving Word Problems

Teachers tell us that their students do not know how to approach word problems.

They say that strategies, like key words, don't seem to work. What are they to do?

# Interpreting & Solving Word Problems

Recommended strategies – (Hulbert, 2009)

1. Read the problem, have students retell and make sense of the situation (without the question associated with the problem)
2. Consider all the questions that could be answered with the information in the problem
3. Solve the different problems
4. Read the real question – solve the problem.

# Retelling and Sense Making

Information for two brands of paper towels is shown in the table below

<b>Paper Towel Brand</b>	<b>Number of Rolls in a Case</b>	<b>Number of Sheets of Paper on a Roll</b>	<b>Cost per Case</b>
Sturdy Picker Uppers	30	60	\$45.00
Beefy Cleaners	30	90	\$75.00

What is the problem situation? That is, retell the story.

# Predicting

Information for two brands of paper towels is shown in the table below

<b>Paper Towel Brand</b>	<b>Number of Rolls in a Case</b>	<b>Number of Sheets of Paper on a Roll</b>	<b>Cost per Case</b>
Sturdy Picker Uppers	30	60	\$45.00
Beefy Cleaners	30	90	\$75.00

What math questions can be answered by the information in the problem?

# Solve the REAL Problem

Information for two brands of paper towels is shown in the table below

<b>Paper Towel Brand</b>	<b>Number of Rolls in a Case</b>	<b>Number of Sheets of Paper on a Roll</b>	<b>Cost per Case</b>
Sturdy Picker Uppers	30	60	\$45.00
Beefy Cleaners	30	90	\$75.00

- Marty says that Study Picker Uppers cost less per sheet than Beefy Cleaners.
- Ted says that Beefy Cleaners cost less per sheet than Sturdy Picker Uppers.
- Jim said that both brands of paper towels cost the same per sheet.

Who is correct? Explain your choice.

# Discussion Points

- What possible benefits are there to using this with students?
- What other ideas do you have for using this strategy?