

Problem Solving: Multiple-Step Problems

Some word problems have hidden questions that must be answered before you can solve the problem.

A paved trail is 4 miles long. Jess runs $\frac{3}{8}$ of the length of the trail and walks the rest of the way. How many miles of the trail does Jess walk?

What do you know?

Jess runs $\frac{3}{8}$ of an 4-mile trail.

What are you asked to find?

How many miles of the trail that Jess walks.

How can you find the distance that Jess walks?

Subtract the distance Jess ran from the length of the trail.

What is the hidden question? The hidden question will help you find data you need to solve the problem.

How many miles did Jess run?

To answer, find $\frac{3}{8} \times 4 = 1\frac{1}{2}$.

Use the data to solve: $4 - 1\frac{1}{2} = 2\frac{1}{2}$, so Jess walked $2\frac{1}{2}$ of the 4 miles.

Write and answer the hidden question(s) in each problem. Then solve the problem.

- Jared surfed for $\frac{1}{3}$ of the 9 hours he was at the beach. He spent the rest of the time building a sand castle. How many hours did he spend building the castle?

Hidden question: _____

Solution: _____

- April put gasoline in 4 of her 5-gallon cans and 6 of her 2-gallon cans. She filled all the cans to the exact capacity. How many gallons of gasoline did she buy?

Hidden question 1: _____

Hidden question 2: _____

Solution: _____

- It costs Le Stor \$10 to buy a shirt. The store sells the shirt for $2\frac{1}{2}$ times its cost. What is the profit for 100 of these shirts? Hint: Profit equals sales minus cost.

Hidden question 1: _____

Hidden question 2: _____

Solution: _____