

3.2 Generalizing Patterns of Problem Solving

p. _____

1. Find your SIGNAL words to help decide what mathematical operations you are doing.
2. Break down the INFORMATION into small, understandable parts.
3. Draw A PICTURE or MAKE A TABLE if it helps.
4. Look for PATTERNS.
5. Always CHECK the problem to make sure your answer makes sense!

Example 1: Each number in a pattern is 2 more than 5 times the preceding number. If the first number is one, what is the fourth?

$+2 \quad 5 \cdot \quad n$

PATTERN: $5n + 2$

4th #

$\textcircled{1} \xrightarrow{5n+2} \textcircled{7} \xrightarrow{5n+2} \textcircled{37} \xrightarrow{5n+2} \textcircled{187}$

$n = 1$

 $5n + 2$
 $5(1) + 2$
 $5 + 2$
 7

$5(7) + 2$
 $35 + 2$
 37

$5(37) + 2$
 $185 + 2$

THE 4th # IS 187.

Example 2: What number when divided by three and then added to seven is equal to ten?

Let n be the number

Then, $\frac{n}{3} + 7 = 10$

COULD
PROBLEM
SOLVE:

$= 3 \rightarrow \frac{n}{3} = 3$

$\frac{9}{3} = 3$

$n = 9$

OR

COULD
USE
ALGEBRA:

$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{n}{3} + 7 = 10 \\ -7 \quad -7 \\ \hline \frac{n}{3} = 3 \cdot 3 \\ n = 9 \end{array}$$

THE # IS 9.