



Helping Your Child with Word Problems

Schema-Based Instruction Quick Reference



Schema-Based Instruction

Schema-based instruction means teaching students how to look at the structure of word problems and figure out what type of word problem (*schema*) they are trying to solve. Two kinds of schemas are *additive* and *multiplicative*.



Change Problems

Change problems are when an amount increases (*goes up*) or decreases (*goes down*) because something changes or happens to the starting number (*additive*).

Start +/- Change = End



Combine Problems

Combine problems put together two or more separate parts to make a total (*additive*).

Part 1 + Part 2 = Total



Compare Problems

Compare problems are when two sets are compared to find the difference (*additive*).

Greater - Less = Difference



Equal Groups Problems

Equal groups problems are when a group or unit is multiplied by a specific number for a product (*multiplicative*).

Set x Times = Product



Comparison Problems

A comparison problem is when a set is multiplied a number of times for a product or total (*multiplicative*).

Groups x Number in Each Group = Product