

Measures word problems (length, weight, capacity)

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

In measures word problems on length, weight or capacity, action words tell you the operation: altogether means add, while left or used means take away. Keep the same unit in your answer.

- Two ribbons of 30 cm and 40 cm joined altogether means add the lengths.
- 1 litre is 1000 ml, so 400 ml poured out leaves the rest.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

RIBBON LEFT AFTER WRAPPING

- 1 Saoirse has 50 cm of ribbon and uses 20 cm to wrap a present.
- 2 The word uses tells us to take away.
- 3 Work out $50 \text{ cm} - 20 \text{ cm}$.
- 4 The ribbon left is 30 cm.

DISCUSSION STARTER

REFLECT How did you decide whether to add or take away in each story problem?

ANSWER KEY

Scaffold: visual check on the page

Q1: 60 cm

a) **Always** — Altogether is the action word that tells us to join or add.

b) **Always** — Used is the clue word for subtraction in measures stories.

c) **Never** — Units must stay the same; never add or subtract different measures.

d) **Always** — Poured out or used signals subtraction for capacity.