

Fraction word problems in real-life contexts

CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT

NUM.FRC.4b investigate proportionality and ratios of quantities (sets).

MEA.MON.4 solve and pose practical tasks to investigate and make informed judgements about transactions and financial plans.

MEA.MSR.4a determine and calculate units of measurement in fractional and/or decimal form to solve practical problems.

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

Before working a fraction you must first decide what the whole amount is.

→ In Aoife gets $\frac{2}{5}$ of a 60 euro prize the whole is 60 euros.

→ $\frac{2}{5}$ of 60 euros: divide 60 by 5 then multiply by 2.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

IDENTIFY THE WHOLE FIRST

- 1 Read the problem and underline the whole amount.
- 2 Ring the fraction that is needed.
- 3 Divide the whole by the denominator then multiply by the numerator.

ANSWER KEY

Scaffold: visual check on the page

Q1: €27

Q2: 12 minutes

Q3: 18 sweets

Q4: 14 euros

Q5: €18

a) Never — You must read carefully to find what the fraction is taken from.

b) Always — The rule says to identify the whole first.

c) Sometimes — It depends on how the problem is worded.

d) Never — Each clue can become the whole for the next step.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: 26

S2: 112