

Magic Decoder Ring For Solving Word Problems

The idea for this chart came from my eighth grade algebra teacher. He made word problems seem so easy that I have always taught this method. I look at word problems as code that needs to be turned into symbols in order to solve the problem. There are some words that shout out what to do, but sometimes people forget that not all students know these special code words. That is why the magic decoder ring is so important. It allows people a chance to discuss what the code words are. I have left room in the chart to find new words to be added. Most of the time I did this activity on the board with input from the whole class and let them take notes on it. I put this together so others might find it helpful as my students did. Try taking apart a simple word problem using this chart to see if you can find the hidden code to come up with an equation to solve. Word problems become easier when you can understand the code.

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