

Problem Solving: Missing or Extra Information

Some problems contain too much or too little information. If a problem has missing information, you cannot solve it. If a problem has extra information, you need to figure out what information is needed to solve the problem.

Step 1: Read and Understand

Mark has \$40. Nora has \$45. How much money will Mark have left if he buys a CD for \$15?

To solve this problem, you need to find out how much money Mark will have left over after he buys a CD.

Step 2: Plan and Solve

Decide which information you need to solve the problem and what is extra information.

You need to know how much money Mark has and how much the CD costs. You do not need to know how much money Nora has. Then, subtract the amount of money Mark spent on the CD from the amount of money he had.

$$40 - 15 = 25$$

Mark has \$25 left.

Larissa volunteers at a wildlife group. One of her jobs is to photocopy a flier and give copies to her friends and neighbors. Last month Larissa made 45 copies. There were 15 colored and 30 in black and white. This month Larissa made 75 copies.

1. Do you have enough information to find out how many copies Larissa made in the last 2 months? Explain.

2. In order to raise money for the National Pet Association, Karl plans to sell bags of pet treats. He will fill 100 bags of treats. He made bags of treats for cats and bags of treats for dogs. How many dog treats did Karl use?

What information did you not use to solve this problem?

3. Do you have enough information to find out how many bags of dog treats Karl made?
