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MATH-ESE Workshop

Lesson Plan 1

Word Problem Comprehension: Phrases in Phases

My Pre-Algebra class was struggling with the words and phrases referring to multiplication, addition, division, and subtraction. I decided to extend our study to include several days, while at the same time continuing in the book. So this is a compilation of the different hands-on activities we did.

Lesson Plan 2

Vocabulary bytes: String a Tale

My geometry class needed an activity to learn vocabulary words.

Additional Comprehension Strategies.

Name: Ellen Montgomery

Grade Level/ Subject: Pre-Algebra I

Topic: Phrases in Phases

Objectives (P.A.S.S.): 1.1a Translate word phrases and sentences into expressions and equations and vice versa.

Introduction: My eighth grade class was not very familiar with the phrases used for multiplication, addition, subtraction, and division. So when the book (McDougal Littell) introduced algebraic expressions with verbal descriptions, I began the process of teaching the verbal descriptions.

Instructional process: Over a period of several days, I did the following:

Day 1: We went over the poster of verbal expressions, Look for the Keys in Word Problems.

Day 2: I printed off the worksheet on the back of the poster on brightly colored paper. I had students pair up, gave them each a pair of scissors and had them cut apart the keys with their phrases and put the appropriate phrases underneath the Keys of Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, and Division. They then switched with other groups to check each other's work. They eventually moved all the way around the room, so that the most capable corrected everyone's work.

Day 3: We reviewed the phrases, and gave each group a set of 5X7 colored cards with Algebraic expressions on them. I had the verbal expressions on my cards, so as I showed the verbal phrase, they were to find and lift up the appropriate algebraic expression. We went through all the cards twice.

Closure: Each day that I taught the phrases, it was in conjunction with the day's assignment from the book, which included some of the phrases.

Assessment: The assessment included each day's homework plus the chapter test at the end.

Modifications/Accommodations: Modifications included the special pairing so that the more capable ones were paired with the less capable.

Reflection: I found that the extension of the study over several days, with several different hands-on activities was beneficial to their learning. The use of colored paper and colored 5X7 cards seemed to brighten their outlook.