

Solving single-stage problems 1

Single-stage problems need just **one calculation** to find the answer.

Example

There are 3 weeks until your holiday starts. **How many days is this in total until the start of your holiday?**

Step 1

Read and understand the problem.

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What is it about?

What are you being asked to do?

Will a diagram help?

It is a problem about time, involving days and weeks. You need to work out **how many** days until the start of your holiday.

Step 2

Work out what calculations you need to do.

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Do you need to add, subtract, multiply, divide?

Have you done a similar problem?

Underline any key words to help you.

You need to work out how many days there are in 3 weeks. This will be a **multiplication** sum.

1 week = 7 days

3 weeks = 3 lots of 7 days

Step 3

Carry out the calculations and answer the problem.

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Try to find the easiest way of working it out - use mental or written methods.

Make sure you do all the steps needed to answer the question.

$3 \times 7 = 21$ There are 21 days until the start of your holiday.

Step 4

Check your answer works.

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Have you answered the question?

Use estimation to see if your answer is about right.

Is there another way you can use to check your answer (eg working backwards)?

There are 3 weeks until your holiday starts and there are 7 days in each week. Check this with addition: $7 + 7 + 7 = 21$. This works.