



WHEN VOCABULARY HIDES THE MATHS

Make meaning visible. Keep the challenge.



THE IDEA

Check whether contextual vocabulary is obscuring an otherwise accessible mathematical relationship.



IN THE CLASSROOM

Select a word problem with relevant and incidental information.

ACROSS SUBJECTS

Science: quantities and units in a practical question. Humanities: extract relevant evidence from a dense prompt.

HOW TO USE IT

1



Check whether contextual vocabulary is obscuring an otherwise accessible mathematical relationship.

2



Read again to mark quantities, units and relationships.

3



Represent the relationship with a sketch, table or equation.

4



Choose a method and check the result against the original question.

WHEN VOCABULARY HIDES THE MATHS

A recipe for four people uses 300 g of rice. For six people, identify the scale factor $\frac{6}{4}$ before calculating 450 g. The story context does not change the proportional relationship.



WHY IT WORKS

Directs attention to meaning, evidence and the connections in the text.



EAL UPGRADE

Remove supplied highlights and let learners choose their own representation.



TRY IT TOMORROW

Give a new problem or flawed step and ask for the relevant relationship and justification before accepting the numerical result.



TEACHER LANGUAGE

"Show the relationship and explain the choice you made."