STAR STRATEGY FOR WORD PROBLEMS

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1. Search the word problem.

- **Read the problem carefully.**
- **Ask, "What is the question?"** <u>Underline in red</u>.
- **Ask, "What facts do I know?"** Circle in blue.
- **Ask, "What information is not needed?"** ~~Cross this out.~~

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2. Translate the words into an equation in picture form.

- **Identify the key words (see next page for a partial listing of key words).**
- **Box key words in green.**
- **Write the associated computations above the key words in red (+, - x, /).**
- **Represent the problem in picture format if needed.**
- **Write the equation needed to solve the problem.**

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3. Answer the problem

- **Use a cue card with the steps written out to solve the number problem**

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4. Review the solution.

- **Re-read the problem.**
- **Check the answer.**
- **Ask, "Does the answer make sense?"**
- If you are **adding or multiplying**, is the answer **bigger** than the numbers in the problem?
- If you are **subtracting or dividing**, is the answer **smaller** than the numbers in the problem?

Word Problem Key Words

Addition	- added to - combined - increased by - more than - sum - together - total of
Subtraction	- decreased by - difference between/of - fewer than - less - less than - minus
Multiplication	- increased/decreased by a factor of - multiplied by - of - product of - times
Division	- out of - per (miles per gallon) - percent (divide by 100) - quotient of - ratio of
Equals	- are - gives - is - sold for - was - were - will be - yields