



**LEARNING GOAL:**

Use a problem solving plan to solve problems.

**Vocabulary**

A **formula** is an equation that relates two or more quantities.

**A Problem-Solving Plan**

**STEP 1 Read and Understand** Read the problem carefully. Identify what you know and what you want to find out.

**STEP 2 Make a Plan** Decide on an approach to solving the problem.

**STEP 3 Solve the Problem** Carry out your plan. Try a new approach if the first one isn't successful.

**STEP 4 Look Back** Once you obtain an answer, check that it is reasonable.

**EXAMPLE 1****Read a problem and make a plan**

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A group of people go to a play. Adult tickets cost \$8 and tickets for children under twelve years of age cost \$5. There are 4 children under twelve. The group spends \$44 for all the tickets. How many adults attended the play?

**Solution****STEP 1 Read and Understand**

*What do you know?*

*What do you want to find out?*

**STEP 2 Make a Plan**

Use what you know to write a verbal model that represents what you want to find out. Then write an equation and solve it.

**STEP 3 Solve the Problem** Write a verbal model. Then write an equation. Let  $a$  be the number of adult tickets purchased.

**Guess** a number that seems reasonable considering the total cost of \$44. Try 2.

**STEP 4 Look Back** Each adult ticket purchase adds \$8 to the total ticket cost. Make a table.

Number of adults	0	1	2	3	4
Total Cost	0				

### Exercises for Example 1

**Identify what you know and what you need to find out. Do *not* solve the problem.**

1. A salesman is reimbursed \$50 a day for food and lodging. He also receives \$.35 for each mile driven. He drives 124 miles and is reimbursed \$193.40. How many days was the trip?

2. You are designing the layout for a newspaper about teen issues. The newspaper will be  $22\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide and 30 inches high. You plan to have 5 columns with  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch gaps between them and  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch margins on the left and right sides. How wide will each column be?