

SPIRAL Activity Guide

Equal Groups Schema

Let's use the Equal Groups equation to solve our word problem!

First let's write our Equal Groups equation. What is our Equal Groups equation?

Write $GR \times N = P$.

Good. We write the Equal Groups equation: GR times N equals P. In an Equal Groups problem, there are groups with an equal number in each group. The Equal Groups equation, GR times N equals P, helps us remember how to write our number sentence for an Equal Groups problem.

(Writes.)

Now we need to find the product. Does the problem give us the product or ask us to find the product?

<p><i>If P is a number:</i> Very good. __ is the product. The problem gives us P. We write __ under P.</p> <p>(Writes and checks off the number.)</p>	<p><i>If P is missing:</i> That's right. In this problem, we have to figure out the product. The product is missing. We write a blank under P.</p> <p>(Writes.)</p>
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Next, we need to find GR and N. We have to decide the groups and the number in each group. Let's start with GR. Sometimes the problem tells us the number of groups. Other times, the number of groups is missing. Look at the problem. Do we know the number of groups?

<p><i>If GR is a number:</i> Yes! __ is the number of groups. We write __ under GR.</p> <p>(Writes and checks off the number.)</p>	<p><i>If GR is missing:</i> Yes. We have to find the number of groups. The number of groups is what's missing. We write a blank under GR.</p> <p>(Writes.)</p>
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Now we need to find N. We have to decide the number in each group. Sometimes the problem tells us the number in each group. Other times, the number in each group is missing. Look at the problem. Does it tell us the number in each group?

<p><i>If N is a number:</i> Yes! __ is the number in each group. We write __ under N.</p> <p>(Writes and checks off the number.)</p>	<p><i>If N is missing:</i> Yes. We have to find the number in each group. The number in each group is what's missing. We write a blank under N.</p> <p>(Writes.)</p>
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What should we do next?

Write the signs.

Good. What math signs do we use to complete our number sentence?

× and =.

(Writes.)

Does this look like a number sentence we know how to solve?

Yes!

Let's read the number sentence together.

Read number sentence aloud with student.

Let's solve for blank!

After you find blank, label the number answer with the word underlined in the problem.

**The last thing we need to do is check to see if our answer makes sense.
Does this answer make sense? Why?**

(Student explains.)