Sentence Stems to Help Explain Your Answers in Math

- My answer is... I figured it out by...
- My answer is... To get my answer, I...
- My solution is... I arrived at this solution by...
- To get my answer, I…
- First I…, Then I…, Next I…, Finally I...
- To begin with, I...
- The first step I took was...
- This problem reminded me of…, so I...
- I noticed..., so I...
- I chose to add/subtract/multiply/divide because the problem...

Explaining Answers *Examples*

Explaining an Answer to a Word Problem:

Example: **My answer** is 36 pieces of candy. **To get my answer, I** had to first read the problem and determine that I needed to multiply. **I chose to multiply because** the problem involved equal groups. The bags were the groups, and each bag had the same amount of candy in it.

Explaining an Answer to a Computation Problem:

Example: **My answer** is 384. **First, I** decided which multiplication strategy I would use. I chose partial products. **To begin with, I** wrote my equation horizontally like this: 96 x 4. **Then, I** multiplied 90 by 4 to get 360. **Next, I** multiplied 6 by 4 to get 24. Those were my partial products, **so I** needed to add them to get my product. **I added** 360 and 24 and got 384, which is the product.

Understanding Math Operations

Addition

- Adding to an Existing Amount
- Putting Together Like Items
- Comparing

Subtraction

- Taking Away from an Existing Amount
- Comparing

Multiplication

- Combining Equal Groups
- Arrays (Equal Rows)

Division

- Splitting into Equal Groups
- Splitting into Equal Rows

Understanding Math Operations

Addition

- Adding to an Existing Amount
- Putting Together Like Items
- Additive Comparison

Subtraction

- Taking Away from an Existing Amount
- Subtractive Comparison

Multiplication

- Combining Equal Groups
- Objects Arranged in Arrays (Finding the Total)
- Multiplicative Comparison

Division

- Splitting into Equal Groups (With the Total Given)
- Splitting into Arrays (With the Total Given)

Understanding Math Operations

Addition

- Adding to an Existing Amount
- A Gain or Increase
- Putting Together Like Items
- Additive Comparison

Subtraction

- Taking Away from an Existing Amount
- A Loss or Decrease
- Subtractive Comparison

Multiplication

- Combining Equal Groups
- Objects Arranged in Arrays (Finding the Total)
- Rates (Finding the Total)
- Multiplicative Comparison
- Taking a Fractional Part of an Amount

Division

- Splitting into Equal Groups (With the Total Given)
- Splitting into Arrays (With the Total Given)
- Rates (With the Total Given)

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