

Estimation and Computation

Story Problem Practice When to Add, Subtract, Multiply, or Divide Daily Morning Math 5 minute sessions

Difficulties with the estimation and computation strand may well not be difficulties with the operations, but rather with knowing which operation to use in solving a story problem. All estimation and computation questions on the SBA's are in story problem format.

The main purpose of these items is to give students opportunities to decide the best operation for getting to the correct solution to a story problem.

We have designed these so that, in most cases, you can insert whole numbers, fractions, or decimals into the blanks. You can make the problems as difficult or easy as you wish. Since the focus is the choosing of a correct operation, perhaps you may want to start with easier data in the questions.

We have tried to use as many different scenarios for each operation as possible. We have also inserted words that may mislead students if they are merely looking for key words (such as divide). It is important for students to picture the actual situation to determine an appropriate operation.

These are designed for individual white board responses. Students should give an answer to the question and be prepared to explain what operation they used and why. **Be sure to hear the explanation through as the student may successfully use an operation you did not have in mind.** Subtraction problems are often solved by counting on (addition). Division problems are often solved by skip counting or thinking of multiplication facts.

If you have no white boards, have students fold a piece of paper into fourths and write their responses big enough for you to see them in each of the eight (front and back of paper) boxes. Home Depot has been known to cut up a piece of shower board for teachers. This gives you a class set that is very inexpensive. Yellow plastic Dixie plates also work.

Our suggestion is that you make overheads of these four sheets, cut them into boxes and place them in a bag as you have the GLE practice boxes we have given you. You might place them in a separate bag from the GLE practice boxes. Of course, if you use a document camera just cut copies of the sheets into boxes.

We hope you will find these and the GLE practice boxes helpful to you.
The Math Department