

This is a good warm-up activity to use before the *Musical Math Challenge* to get students actively involved. This is typed in large print ready to reproduce as a transparency.

SPEED DRILL WARM-UP ACTIVITY

MORE

DECREASED

PRODUCT

COMBINED

INCREASED

LESS THAN

QUOTIENT

PER

REDUCED

TWICE

TOTAL

HALF

DOUBLE

LESS
OF
SUM
FRACTION
PERIMETER
SQUARE
DIFFERENCE
FACTOR
TRIPLE
TIMES
AVERAGE
CUT
DIMINISH
PLUS

GENERAL APPROACH TO PROBLEM SOLVING

When students have difficulty solving math problems, the cause is often a haphazard approach to the problem. The following four-step approach can make problems more manageable.

- **Step 1: READ.** *Take a deep breath and read the problem slowly.* Decide what information is given and what needs to be found. Sometimes it helps to underline or **highlight** the question being asked.
- **Step 2: PLAN.** Decide what type of operation or strategy you should use to solve the problem. Considering what you are looking for, does your choice of procedure make sense?
- **Step 3: SOLVE.** Do the math. Be very careful. Don't let careless mistakes hurt you now. If you are not comfortable doing the calculations on your own, use your calculator.
- **Step 4: CHECK.** Inspect the problem and see if you have answered the question that was asked. Does your answer make sense? Use your calculator to check your work.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

The total of 12, 15,
and a number is
30.

4 less than a
number is -12 .

A number less 14
is 32.

18 more than a
number is 29.

45 combined with a
number is 92.

\$25 reduced by a
number is \$9.

The product of a
number and $1\frac{1}{2}$ is
 $\frac{3}{4}$.

The square of a
number is 81.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

100 increased by a number is 534.

A number decreased by -3 is -1 .

The factors of 57 are 3 and a number.

Triple a number and you get -81 .

A number plus 5, 7, & -3 is 14.

The average of 12 and a number is 18.

$2\frac{1}{4}$ increased by a number is $5\frac{1}{2}$.

A number decreased by $\frac{3}{4}$ is -2 .

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

5 less a number is
17.

A number plus
-12 is -23.

A number
increased by itself
is -14.

$3\frac{1}{2}$ times a
number is 1.

A number
decreased by -3 is
zero.

One-third of a
number is -8.

$\frac{1}{4}$ is the same as the
quotient of a number
and 15.

The quotient of 2
and a number is
 $1\frac{1}{2}$.

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

Twice a number is
 -7 .

The difference of a
number and 15 is
3.

Double a number
and you get 32.

The sum of -14
and a number is 9.

Half a number is
 -10 .

$2\frac{1}{2}$ times a number
is 15.

Decrease a
number by 32 and
you get 19.

The quotient of a
number and 3 is
21.