

**P3-P6 PROBLEM
SUMS****GYM Edu Hub Primary**

Problem Sums Rescue Notes

For P3-P6 Math - a clear step-by-step system for word problems.

Teacher Hidayah says: A problem sum is not testing speed first. It is testing whether you understand the story.

The 8-Step Rescue Method

1. Read twice First read to understand. Second read to mark important information.	2. Underline numbers Underline only numbers that matter. Do not blindly use all numbers.
3. Circle the question What exactly are you asked to find?	4. Identify the topic Is it fractions, ratio, percentage, model drawing, speed or another topic?
5. Choose method Model drawing, units and parts, before-after, guess and check, working backwards.	6. Solve step by step Write clear working. Do not jump too many steps.
7. Check sense Should the answer be bigger, smaller, total, difference or part?	8. Write final answer Include units and answer the exact question.

Which Method Should I Use?

Part-whole story	Use model drawing or units and parts.
Comparison story	Use comparison model. Look for more than, less than, difference.
Before-after story	Draw before and after models. Track what changed.
Equal sharing or grouping	Use multiplication or division, and check what 1 group represents.
Question gives total	Find total units or total parts first.
Question gives difference	Find difference units or difference parts first.

Common Problem Sum Mistakes

- Starting calculation before understanding the story.
- Not answering the actual question.
- Forgetting units.
- Drawing a model without labels.
- Using all numbers even when one number is not needed.
- Skipping the final check.

Worked Example

Question: Mei had 3 times as many stickers as Nora. Mei gave 18 stickers to Nora. Now they have the same number of stickers. How many stickers did Mei have at first?

Step 1: Understand the story	At first, Mei : Nora = 3 : 1.
Step 2: Think about the change	Mei gives 18 to Nora. This reduces Mei and increases Nora.
Step 3: Same number now	The transfer closes the gap between them.
Step 4: Use difference idea	At first, difference = 2 units. Giving 18 away and receiving 18 closes a gap of 36.
Step 5: Find 1 unit	2 units = 36, so 1 unit = 18.
Step 6: Find Mei at first	Mei = 3 units = $3 \times 18 = 54$.
Answer	Mei had 54 stickers at first.

Teacher Hidayah Tip: In giving-away questions, the difference changes by twice the amount given if one person loses and the other person gains.

Before-Class Prep

- Read the question slowly.
- Circle what the question is asking for.
- Decide if it is part-whole, comparison or before-after.
- Try drawing a simple model, even if it is not perfect.

After-Class Practice

- Complete 5 guided problem sums.
- For each question, write the method used.
- For every mistake, choose one mistake category.
- Redo the question without looking at the solution.

Mistake Fix Categories

Careless mistake I knew the method but copied or calculated wrongly.	Wrong concept I did not understand what the question was testing.
Wrong operation I added, subtracted, multiplied or divided wrongly.	Wrong model My model did not match the story.
Skipped step I jumped too fast and missed an important step.	Did not answer question I found something, but not what the question asked.