



METHODOLOGY

INTERPRETING WORD PROBLEMS



Scenario: A Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) suggests that a woman’s recommended weight can be computed. For each inch over 5 feet tall, 5 pounds should be added to 100 pounds. Some women are, of course, 4 feet 11 inches or shorter, but this recommended weight is fairly reliable for 90% of United States women. What does this HMO’s formula recommend for the weight of a woman 6 feet 1 inches tall?

Step	 Make it Work!
1. Read and state the problem	
2. Inventory the information	
3. Eliminate irrelevant information	
4. Identify variables, constants and assumptions	
5. Determine the form for the solution	

Step	 Make it Work!
6. Simplify the problem	
7. Model each sub-problem	
8. Integrate the sub-problems	
9. Present the solution	
10. Validate the solution	