Evaluating in Math

Cross-Curricular Focus: Mathematics



Name: _____

You have learned to do all different kinds of math by now. You have probably heard the word *solve* used a lot. When you see the word **solve**, you understand that it means to figure out the answer to a math problem. As you get older, you may see other words used to give math directions. There may be some that you have never heard before. You just need to learn the new vocabulary. It can be even more confusing when you see a word you think you understand. Surprise! It's being used in a different way.

You may have learned the word **evaluate** when you were asked to decide if something was good or bad. You may have used it to decide if an author did a good job sending a message in his writing. This year, you may begin to see the word evaluate used in a different way.

Sometimes math directions with say something like "Evaluate the following problems." When it is used in math, evaluate can be a synonym for solve. Do you see the smaller word, *value*, inside the word e*valu*ate? When you evaluate math, you say its final value. Value is the total after the equation is solved. So all it is asking you to do is solve the math problems and write down the answers.

As with any kind of math work or tests, it is always a good idea to show your work. This lets the teacher know what you understand. You may get credit even if you end up with a wrong answer.

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) What does it mean to solve a problem?

_____

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2) Why might the word **evaluate** be confusing when you see it in math for the first time?

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3) What does the word *synonym* mean in the third paragraph?

_____

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4) Why is it important to always show your work when you do math?

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5) What does **evaluate** mean in math?

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