

STEPS FOR SOLVING APPLIED PROBLEMS

1. **Read** the problem; carefully noting the information given and the question(s) asked. (Possibly draw a picture.)
2. Let a **variable** represent the unknown (or one of the unknowns) you are asked to find. You may have to represent other unknowns using that variable as well.
3. Think of a **PLAN**, a sentence or formula that relates the information given and the unknown(s).
4. From this plan, **write an equation** and solve.
5. **Answer the question(s)** (with labels) and check that your solution is reasonable.