

APPLICATIONS OF LINEAR SYSTEMS Guide Notes

APPLICATIONS OF LINEAR SYSTEM OF EQUATIONS: Are represented through story problems or word problems. The point is to set up the equations and solve the system.

These applications mostly represent the following topics:

- Relation between numbers
- Mixtures
- Business
- Geometry
- Investment

STEP BY STEP: SOLVING APPLICATIONS

- 1) Read the problem carefully to determine the unknown quantities.
- 2) Choose a variable to represent the unknown.
- 3) Translate the problem to the language of algebra to form a system of equations.
- 4) Solve the system of equations and then answer the question of the original problem.
- 5) Verify your solution by returning to the original problem.

Set up the linear system of equations for the following word problems:

1. The sum of 2 numbers is 16 and their difference is 10.

System:

$$\begin{cases} x + y = 16 \\ x - y = 10 \end{cases}$$

2. A chemistry teacher has a 25% acid solution and another 40% acid solution. He wants to prepare 400 ml of a final solution at 30%

System:

$$\begin{cases} x + y = 400 \\ 0.25x + 0.40y = 0.30(400) \end{cases} \quad \text{Solving:} \quad \begin{cases} x + y = 400 \\ 0.25x + 0.40y = 120 \end{cases}$$

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3. The length of a rectangle is 2 cm more than three times its width and the perimeter of the rectangle is 40 cm.

System:

$$\begin{cases} x = 2 + 3y \\ 2x + 2y = 40 \end{cases}$$

SAMPLE PROBLEMS

Solve the following verbal problems involving linear systems:

- **The sum of 3 times a larger number and twice a smaller is 26. The difference of 2 times the larger and the smaller is 8. Find the numbers.**

- Identify variables

x: Larger Number

y: Smaller Number

- Set up equations

$$3x + 2y = 26 \quad \text{and} \quad 2x - y = 8$$

- Solve linear System

We will use the elimination method, like follows:

$$\begin{cases} 3x + 2y = 26 \\ 2x - y = 8 \end{cases}$$

We interchange the “x” or “y” coefficients from equation I and equation II to eliminate one of the variables. In this case, we are going to interchange the “x” coefficients of both equations, like follows:

$$\begin{cases} 2(3x + 2y = 26) \\ -3(2x - y = 8) \end{cases}$$

Applying distributive property:

$$\begin{cases} 6x + 4y = 52 \\ -6x + 3y = -24 \end{cases}$$

The result would be:

$$7y = 28 \quad \rightarrow y = 4$$

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Now, we calculate the value of variable “x” by substituting the result of “y” into one of the equations

$$x = \frac{8 + y}{2} = \frac{8 + 4}{2} = 6$$

$$x = 6 \text{ and } y = 4$$

- **A roll of 30 bills contains only \$5 bills and \$10 bills. If the value of the roll is \$250, then how many of each bill are in the roll?**

- Identify variables

x: Number of \$5 bills

y: Number of \$10 bills

- Set up equations

$$x + y = 30 \quad \text{and} \quad 5x + 10y = 250$$

- Solve linear System

In this case we will use the elimination method, like follows:

$$\begin{cases} x + y = 30 \\ 5x + 10y = 250 \end{cases}$$

We interchange the “x” or “y” coefficients from equation I and equation II to eliminate one of the variables. In this case, we are going to interchange the “x” coefficients of both equations, like follows:

$$\begin{cases} 5(x + y = 30) \\ -1(5x + 10y = 250) \end{cases}$$

Applying distributive property:

$$\begin{cases} 5x + 5y = 150 \\ -5x - 10y = -250 \end{cases}$$

The result would be:

$$-5y = -100 \quad \rightarrow y = 20$$

Now, we calculate the value of variable “x” by substituting the result of “y” into one of the equations

$$x = 30 - y = 30 - 20 = 10$$

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There are 10 bills of \$5 and 20 bills of \$10

$$x = 10 \text{ and } y = 20$$