

Learning Project ②

Rates



Introduction

The two problems in this Learning Project are practical, everyday problems with which the learners may have had some prior experience – comparing prices to determine how much is saved (Inquiry Activity 2-1) and calculating the cost of a truck rental (Inquiry Activity 2-2). Both of the Inquiry Activities attempt to build on prior experience the learners may have, as well as help them transfer the math knowledge gained to comparison-shopping situations. The approach to these multi-step problems asks the learners to indicate the steps they took to find the answers, in the same spirit as the process orientation of the activities themselves.

Inquiry Activity 2-1 presents the first problem in these Learning Projects in which the calculator can help, but is not necessarily needed, in the solution of the problem. Since the calculator is allowed, encourage its use as part of a test-taking strategy in double-checking an answer found by estimating or with paper and pencil.

Take time to point out the directions for calculator use that accompany the Practice Test, and ask each student to follow along with the first two examples. The learners should see that doing basic computations does not require any of the scientific functions on this calculator. Save the advanced topics in the last two examples for later when the concepts fit in with the discussion.