



Building numeracy skills



Meet Saul

Lots of people think Saul is pretty smart. He can fix anything and he knows about a lot of things. But his **numeracy** skills are not as strong as they used to be. In fact, his skills have slipped since he left high school. But Saul wants to get a new job, one that requires more numeracy skills than he has right now.

Saul feels stuck. He doesn't know how to improve his numeracy skills, and he's afraid to ask for help. He doesn't want people to think he isn't smart.



Let's talk about it

Saul's in a tough situation, but it's actually a very common one.

- Why might someone be afraid to ask for help with their numeracy skills?
- If Saul was your friend, and he asked you for advice, how would that make you feel? Would it change your opinion of him?
- If you were Saul, what would you do to improve your numeracy skills?





Making soup

Imagine you have to make lunch for a group of 18 people. Here's the recipe you want to use:

Recipe: <u>Tomato soup</u>	Serves: <u>6 people</u>
Ingredients:	
<u>2 tablespoons olive oil</u>	<u>3 cups vegetable broth</u>
<u>1 tablespoon butter</u>	<u>28 oz. can tomato purée</u>
<u>1/4 cup chopped onion</u>	<u>1/2 teaspoon sugar</u>
<u>1/2 teaspoon flour</u>	<u>3 tablespoons sliced</u>
	<u>fresh basil</u>

You have the following measuring cups and spoons:

- 3 cups 
- 1 cup 
- 1/2 cup 
- 1/4 cup 
- 1 tablespoon 
- 1 teaspoon 
- 1/2 teaspoon 

For each ingredient in the recipe, figure out how much you need and what tool is best for measuring it. Remember that the recipe serves 6 people but 18 people are coming to your lunch!

Ingredient	How much you'll need	Too to measure
2 tablespoons olive oil	6 tablespoons olive oil $2 \text{ tablespoons} \times 3 = 6$ tablespoons	1 tablespoon
1 tablespoon butter		
1/4 cup chopped onion		
1/2 teaspoon flour		
3 cups vegetable broth		
28 ounce can of tomato purée		
1/2 teaspoon sugar		
3 tablespoons sliced fresh basil		



Shopping trip

Many people regularly spend money at the same place. You might make regular trips to the grocery store, convenience store, or the laundrymat.

Thinking about things you buy often is a good place to practice your estimating skills.

Pick a place where you are a regular shopper. Use the table below to make a list of the things you usually buy. Estimate how much you spend on each item in a week and add that to the table.

Add all the amounts in the estimate column together to get a total.

Example

Item	Cost estimate
Peanut butter	\$4.00
Bread	\$3.00
Total	\$7.00

Place you spend money: _____

Item	Cost estimate
Total	



Numeracy Tip

Estimating your regular expenses is a good way to improve your money math and get better at managing your money.