



Name _____

Problem-Solving Strategy

R 2-6

Work Backward

Alys went shopping with \$60. She bought several books at \$4.50 each. She spent \$28 on office supplies. She had \$5 left. How many books did Alys buy?

Understand You need to find out how many books Alys bought. To do this, you need to know how much she spent on them altogether.

Plan You can work backward. Subtract the amount she had left from \$60. Then subtract the amount you know she spent on office supplies. The difference is how much she spent on books. You know each book cost \$4.50. To find out how many books Alys could get for what she spent, you can divide the amount spent on books by \$4.50.

Solve	Beginning cash	–	Amount left	–	Office supplies	=	Cost of books	→ ÷	Price per book	=	Number bought
	\$60	–	\$5	–	\$28	=	\$27	→ ÷	\$4.50	=	6 books

Alys bought 6 books.

Look Back	Books	+	Office Supplies	+	Cash left	=	Total
	6 books × \$4.50 → \$27	+	\$28	+	\$5	=	\$60

Work backward to solve.

- Jan withdrew some cash from the bank to buy groceries. She used $\frac{1}{2}$ of the money to buy fruits and vegetables. From the money she had left, she spent \$20 for a fresh turkey. She had \$10 left when she got home. How much cash did Jan withdraw?

Cash left	+	Fresh turkey	=	$\frac{1}{2}$ of total	→ × 2 =	Total
\$ _____	+	\$ _____	=	\$ _____	→ × 2 =	\$ _____

So, Jan withdrew \$ _____ from the bank.