Maths Accelerator Centre

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P6 Problem Sums – Mini Lesson

Term 1 Lesson 1

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Equal Stage Strategy – Introduction

The **Equal Stage strategy** is used when two people (or groups) start with the **same initial amount**. Instead of focusing on their starting quantities, we track how much each person **keeps or gives away**. By comparing their final amounts, we can form an equation that reveals the original number.

- **Key Idea:** Both begin at the same stage (equal starting point).
- **Steps:**
    1. Represent the initial amount with a variable (e.g., x).
    2. Express each person's final amount as a fraction of x.
    3. Use the difference or relationship given in the problem to form an equation.
    4. Solve for x to find the starting amount.
- **Why it works:** Since both started equally, the difference at the end comes only from how much each gave away or kept.

Discussion Question

Follow the trainer in this video and solve this question.

Lucas and James had the same number of stickers. Lucas gave away $\frac{3}{4}$ of his stickers. James gave away $\frac{1}{8}$ of his stickers.

In the end, James has 75 more stickers than Lucas. How many stickers did Lucas and James each have at first?

Practice Time

Here are **4 practice questions** based on this strategy.
Follow the step-by-step method we discussed in the video to solve each one.

☑ Work through the problems carefully.
☑ Check your solutions against the **Answer Key** provided on the last page.

Question 1

Sophie and Emma had the same number of marbles. Sophie gave away $\frac{2}{3}$ of her marbles.

Emma gave away $\frac{1}{6}$ of her marbles.

In the end, Emma has 60 more marbles than Sophie. How many marbles did Sophie and Emma each have at first?

Question 2

Daniel and Ryan had the same number of pencils. Daniel gave away $\frac{5}{8}$ of his pencils. Ryan gave away $\frac{1}{4}$ of his pencils.

In the end, Ryan has 48 more pencils than Daniel. How many pencils did Daniel and Ryan each have at first?

Question 3

Maya and Chloe had the same number of candies. Maya gave away $\frac{3}{5}$ of her candies.
Chloe gave away $\frac{1}{10}$ of her candies.
In the end, Chloe has 90 more candies than Maya. How many candies did Maya and Chloe each have at first?

Question 4

Ethan and Noah had the same number of books. Ethan gave away $\frac{7}{12}$ of his books.
Noah gave away $\frac{1}{3}$ of his books.
In the end, Noah has 84 more books than Ethan. How many books did Ethan and Noah each have at first?

<u>Answer Key</u>

1. 120 marbles

2. 128 pencils

3. 180 candies

4. 336 books