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P6 Problem Sums – Mini Lesson

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Equal Remainders Strategy – Introduction

The **Equal Remainders Strategy** is a powerful visual and algebraic shortcut used primarily in ratio and fraction word problems. It is designed for situations where two different wholes (A and B) undergo different changes, but the **result (what remains)** is exactly the same.

Key Takeaways

- **Focus on the "Leftover":** Always convert the "spent" or "given away" fraction into the "remaining" fraction before you start your comparison.
- **The Numerator is the Bridge:** The numerator represents the *actual amount* remaining. By making the numerators equal, you create a common point of reference between two different totals.
- **The Denominator is the "Start":** Once the numerators are matched, the denominators tell you the ratio of the original starting amounts.
- **Avoid Common Denominators:** Unlike adding fractions, you **do not** need the denominators to be the same. In fact, keeping them different is what reveals the starting ratio.
- **Difference = Units:** The "more than" or "less than" amount given in the problem always corresponds to the difference between the two denominators.

Discussion Question

Follow the trainer in this video and solve this question.

After Richie spent $\frac{3}{4}$ of his pocket money and Stephanie spent $\frac{1}{3}$ of her pocket money, they have the same amount of money left. Richie had $60 more than Stephanie at first. How much pocket money did Stephanie 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.

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1. After Alex saved $\frac{5}{6}$ of his salary and Beatrice saved $\frac{1}{2}$ of her salary, they both had the same amount of "spending money" left. Alex's salary was $1,200 more than Beatrice's. How much was Beatrice's salary?

2. School A distributed $\frac{4}{5}$ of its library books to students, and School B distributed $\frac{2}{3}$ of its books. Both schools ended up with the same number of books remaining on their shelves. If School A had $450 more books than School B initially, how many books did School A have at first?

3. Kevin lost $\frac{2}{3}$ of his marbles in a game, and Julie lost $\frac{4}{7}$ of her marbles. They then realized they each had the same number of marbles remaining. If Kevin had $24 more marbles than Julie at the beginning, how many marbles did they have altogether at first?

4. After Leo spent $\frac{\mathbf{2}}{\mathbf{5}}$ of his money and Chloe spent $\frac{\mathbf{3}}{\mathbf{4}}$ of her money at a fair, they found they both had the same amount of money left. Leo had $35 less than Chloe at the start. How much money did Chloe have at first?

Answer Key

1. $ 600
2. 1125
3. 192
4. $60