

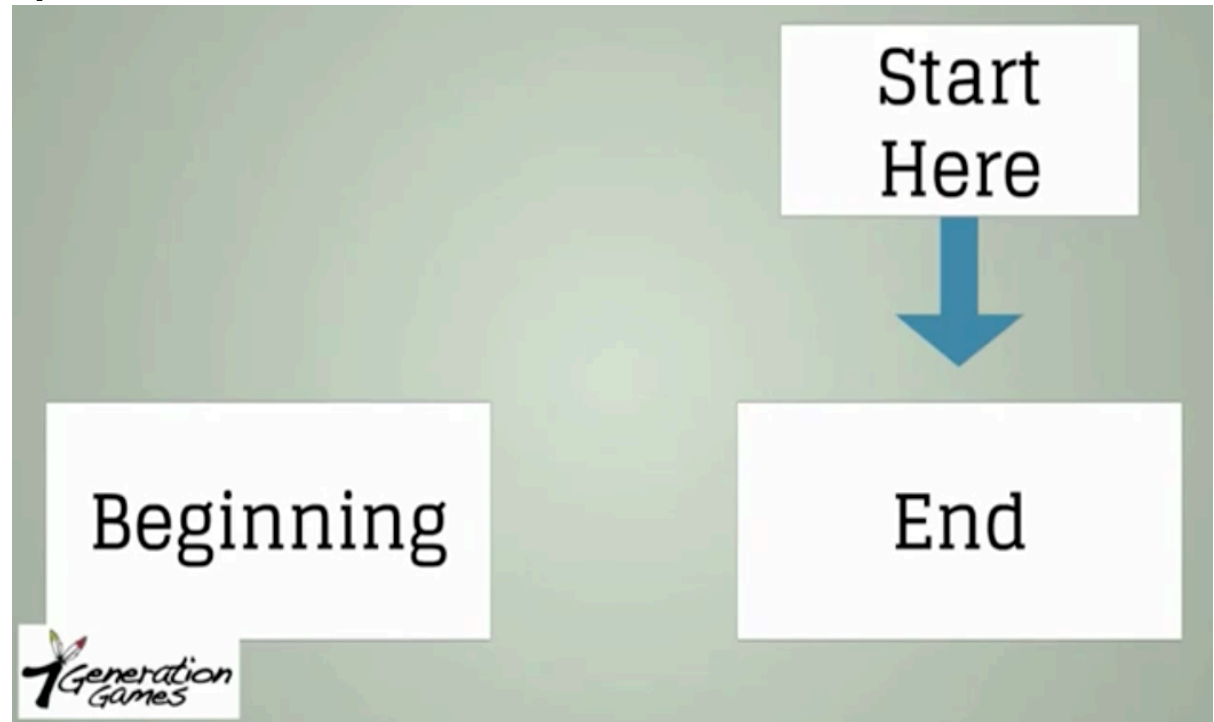
Start at the End



Problem-Solving Strategy:

Start at the End

Almost always, the actual problem or the question that you are being asked to answer in a word problem will come at the very end of the word problem.



Problem-
Solving
Strategy:

Start at the End

An Example

Devin and Sara went out to lunch. Devin's lunch cost \$5. Sara's lunch cost \$7. What was the total cost of their lunch?

Problem-
Solving
Strategy:

Start at the End

An Example



The problem that you are going to solve is:
What was the total cost of their lunch?

Problem-
Solving
Strategy:

Start at the End

An Example

Word Problems

1. Present the information.
2. Ask a question related to the information.

Problem- Solving Strategy:

Start at the End

An Example

In this case, the information presented is the cost of Devin and Sara's lunch.



The question that you are trying to answer or the problem that you need to solve is:

What was the total cost of their lunch?

Problem-
Solving
Strategy:

Start at the End

An Example

We take the information given:

$$\$5 + \$7 = \$12$$



The total cost of lunch

Problem-
Solving
Strategy:

Start at the End

A Harder
Example



Devin and Sara's friend Margot
joins them for lunch.

Problem-
Solving
Strategy:

Start at the End

A Harder
Example

Here's our problem:

Devin, Sara and Margot went to lunch. Devin's lunch cost \$4. Sara's lunch cost \$6 and Margot's lunch cost \$8. When the bill came, the friends decided to split it evenly three ways and each pay the same amount. How much should each person pay?

Problem-
Solving
Strategy:

Start at the End

A Harder
Example

Let's go directly to the end:

How much should each person pay?

That's the question that we need to answer.

Problem-
Solving
Strategy:

Start at the End

A Harder
Example

Again,
1. Presented with information.

Devin \$4

Sara \$6

Margot \$8

We are given the cost of each friend's lunch
and that they want to split the check
evenly – 3 ways.

Problem- Solving Strategy:

Start at the End

A Harder
Example

And,

2. Asked to answer a question related to the information.

The last part of the problem is the question that we have to answer.

How much should each person pay?

Problem-
Solving
Strategy:

Start at the End

A Harder
Example

This is a two step problem.

First, add the cost of each person's lunch together.

$$\$4 + \$6 + \$8 = \$18$$



Problem-
Solving
Strategy:

Start at the End

A Harder
Example

Always make sure that you're answering the question at the very end of your problem. That's important!

Final Answer?

\$18

Problem- Solving Strategy:

Start at the End

A Harder
Example

Always make sure that you're answering the question at the very end of your problem. That's important!

Final Answer?



That doesn't answer the question being asked. There's still one more step.

Problem- Solving Strategy:

Start at the End

A Harder Example

We started at the end to find the question that needed to be answered. That question will help us focus in on the right answer.

What we need to answer to solve the problem:

How much should each person pay?

Problem-
Solving
Strategy:

Start at the End

A Harder
Example

Second step:

Then divide the total cost of lunch (\$18) by 3 to determine how much each person pays.

$$\$18/3 = \$6$$

How much should each person pay?

Each person pays \$6.

Problem-
Solving
Strategy:

Start at the End

Two More Tips

Tip #1

When you're done, go back to the end and make sure you've answered the question the problem asks.

Problem-
Solving
Strategy:

Start at the End

Two More Tips

Tip #2

To determine what you need to answer in a word problem:

Look for the sentence in the problem that ends with a question mark.

Problem-
Solving
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Start at the
End

The End

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