



## Schumaker's Sure-Fire Strategy for Successfully Solving Some (Stressful) Statement Problems

1. Identify/record the unknown(s).
2. Assign a variable to each unknown\*.
3. Identify/record the knowns (given info) using phrases, pictures, diagrams, tables, etc.
4. Determine/write a *system of linear equations* representing the relationships between the unknown & known quantities. The number of equations needed will be the same as the number of variables used (refer to step 2).
5. Solve the system of equations, then use the solutions as needed to answer the original problem (refer back to step 1).

☞ \* Usually requires a unique variable for each unknown quantity.

