



solution:
a way of dealing with a problem or a difficult
situation

Mars Rover Model Celebration – Lesson Plan

Introduction:

One of the new vocabulary words for this unit is **solution**. Solution has several different meanings, but in today's lesson it means "a way of dealing with a problem or a difficult situation". Another word that means almost the same thing as solution is "answer".

Let's look at a picture that will help us understand this meaning of the word solution. A calculator is a tool that people use to find the solution or answer to complex mathematical problems. A calculator is a useful tool because it can find the solution to a mathematical problem much quicker than a person. Calculators are also more accurate than people. They nearly always come up with the correct solution.

However, we don't only use the word solution to talk about math. People find solutions to all kinds of problems. You find solutions to problems every day. For example, today I noticed that I needed more gas in my car in order to get to work. To solve this problem, I stopped at the gas station to fill the tank. That was my solution to the problem. While this is a simple example, we also solve more difficult problems every day.

If you speak Spanish, you may already know a cognate for the word solution. Remember, a cognate is a word that is similar in spelling and/or pronunciation in two languages. Can anybody tell me the cognate for solution in Spanish? That's right, "solución" (so-lew-see-own). When you come across a word you don't know in English, it is often useful to check whether there might be a cognate you already know in your native language.

Example:

Here is another example of the word solution. Some friends of mine own a little dog, a Chihuahua. He is adorable, but they had a big problem. Whenever he wanted to go outside, he would scratch on the backdoor and his toenails were digging into the wood and ruining it. My friends came up with a great solution. They installed a little doggie door (one he can push open with his snout) on the backdoor. Now their dog can come in and out as he pleases without scratching the door.

Reflection:

I am going to tell you a problem. If you can think of a solution to the problem, raise your hand and when I call on you say, "My SOLUTION is...." (*Accept any reasonable answers your students suggest.*)

- Your best friend comes up to you at school in the morning and tells you he/she forgot their homework and asks for your help.
- You are far from home when your bike gets a flat tire.
- Your feet have grown and no longer fit into any of the shoes you have at home.
- You look in your closet and you have no clean clothes to wear to school.

Make it personal:

Think about a time when you had a problem and you came up with a great solution. Share your experience with your neighbor. Be sure to use "solution" in your sharing. If your story is especially interesting, consider sharing it with the class.