

# Break It Down

A word problem can be easier to solve when it's broken down into pieces. This chart can help.

1. Write down your word problem in the top box. You may want to highlight numbers and key words.
2. In the second box, write down what you know from the information provided in the problem.
3. In the bottom left box, write what you need to find and how to find it.
4. In the bottom right boxes, solve and check your answer.

Write your word problem.

Alex has a **\$100 gift card** he can use to buy video games. He wants **two games** that cost **\$25.95 each**. He wants another game that costs **\$45.00**. Does he have enough money on his gift card to buy **all three games**?

What do you know?

Gift card = \$100  
 2 games = \$25.95 each  
 1 additional game = \$45.00  
 He wants to buy all three games

What do you need to find?  
 How will you find it?

Cost of all three games

$2 \times \$25.95$  } Add for  
 $1 \times \$45.00$  } total

Is it enough?

$\$100 - \text{Total}$   
 $= \text{Difference}$

Solve the problem.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \overset{1}{2}5.\overset{1}{9}\overset{1}{5} \\
 \times \quad 2 \\
 \hline
 51.90
 \end{array}$$

51.90

+ 45.00

96.90

Yes, it's enough.

Check your answer.

$\$100.00 > \$96.90$



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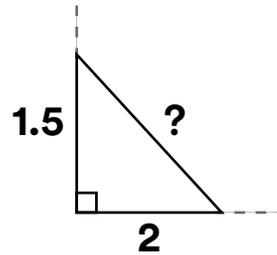
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Write your word problem.

Sara wants to build a **triangle**-shaped box to fit in the **corner of a square** room. The sides of the box that touch the wall are **1.5 ft.** and **2 ft.** long. How long is the third side?

What do you know?

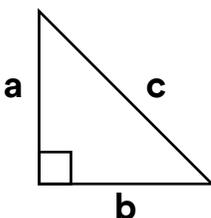
- The box is a right triangle.
- The two legs are 1.5 ft. and 2 ft.
- The hypotenuse (third leg) is missing.



What do you need to find?  
How will you find it?

- The length of the hypotenuse
- Use the Pythagorean theorem

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$



Solve the problem.

$$\begin{array}{l} a^2 + b^2 = c^2 \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ 1.5^2 + 2^2 = c^2 \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ 2.25 + 4 = c^2 \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ 6.25 = c^2 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \nearrow \\ \sqrt{6.25} = \sqrt{c^2} \\ \downarrow \\ 2.5 = c \end{array}$$

Check your answer.

$$\begin{array}{l} 1.5^2 + 2^2 = 2.5^2 \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ 2.25 + 4 = 6.25 \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ 6.25 = 6.25 \quad \checkmark \end{array}$$

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

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Write your word problem.

What do you know?

What do you need to find?  
How will you find it?

Solve the problem.

Check your answer.