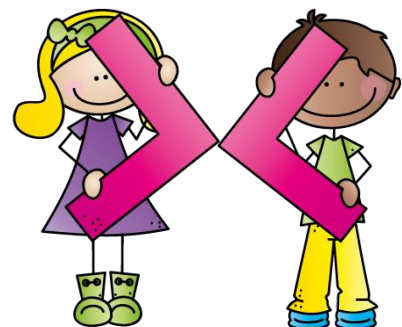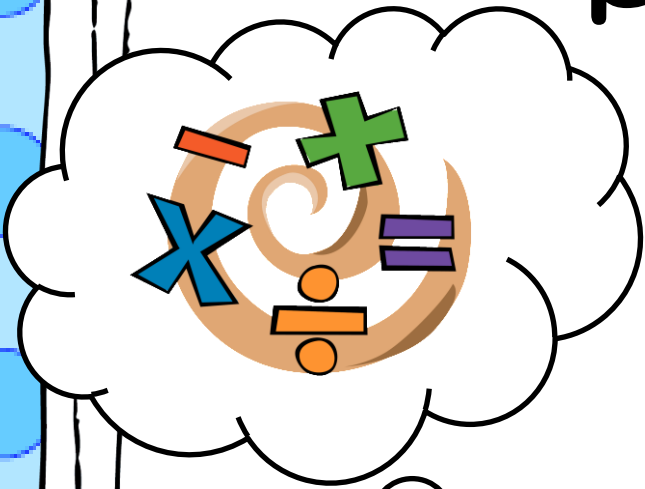# Using Numbers or Symbols

Can using numbers or symbols make problem solving faster and easier?

Sometimes using numbers and symbols helps us to solve the problem in a faster, easier way.

The Problem: Six boys at the skate park had two skateboards each and three girls had one skateboard each. If every skateboard had four wheels, how many wheels were there altogether?

Step One: Write a number sentence

6 × 2 × 4 + 3 × 1 × 4

Step Two: Solve using mathematical conventions

6 × 2 × 4 + 3 × 1 × 4

48 + 12

= 60 wheels