Writing Rules for Situations

When working with tables, it is important to find a rule that works for all pairs of numbers. The rule tells how to find one of the numbers in a pair.

Old Price	New Price
$15	$10
$22	$17
$28	$23
$37	$32
$51	$46

Each pair of numbers in the table to the left follows a rule. If you can find a rule that works, you can extend the table.

Step 1

Find the pattern. Check the first pair of numbers to see how the first number changed to become the second number.

$15 - 10 = 5$

A rule for the first pair of numbers is "subtract 5."

Step 2

See if this rule works for all the values.

$22 - 17 = 5$ $37 - 32 = 5$

$28 - 23 = 5$ $51 - 46 = 5$

The rule "subtract 5" works for every pair of values.

Find the missing numbers in each table.
Write a rule for the table.

1.

Earned	Spent
$21	$14
$30	$23
$42	
$48	$41
$59	

2.

Teams	Players
3	27
8	72
6	
9	
2	18

3.

Tickets	Cost
2	$1
6	$3
12	
10	$5
20	

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4. Number Sense Joe said that by using the information in Exercise 2 there would be 250 players if there were 25 teams. Is that correct? Explain.

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