

EXAMPLE 11

According to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), a family of two that makes less than \$4,500 is considered poor. For each additional family member OMB adds \$1,100. What would OMB consider poor for a family of three?

Solution

At this point, we have already read the problem once. Now we reread to search for key words. The only key word is *adds*. Reading a third time, we search for the given information and what we must find. We could say the first two sentences are the given and the final sentence is what we must find. However, the first two sentences contain information that is unnecessary to solving the problem, for instance what the OMB is. The only important pieces of information we need to know to solve the problem are:

Known: Family of two making less than \$4,500 is poor. Add \$1,100 for each additional family member.

Unknown: What OMB considers poor for a family of three.

We next form an expression relating the known information:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \$4,500 + \$1,100 & \\ & \uparrow \quad \quad \uparrow & \\ \text{two people} & \text{---} & \text{--- additional family member} \end{array}$$

Adding these two amounts gives the answer: \$5,600. So, if a family of three has an income of \$5,600 or less, OMB considers that family poor.