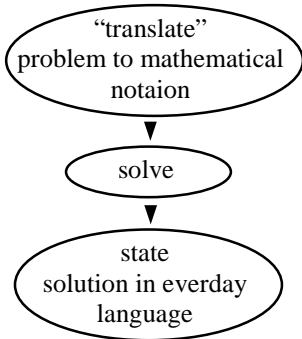


“Real world” problems are expressed in words. The problem has to be solved mathematically and the solution expressed in words.

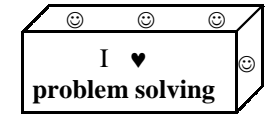


In the recent exams my maths mark was 13 more than my science mark. The combined mark was 161. Find my maths mark.

Scan the problem. Use a highlighter to emphasise two keys things:

- \* what information are you given? (many of the words may be irrelevant!)
- \* what are you required to find?

See the concept map:



for ideas and strategies appropriate to different types of problems. For this example we will try “Use a variable”.

The word “Let ....” has magical mathematical properties. Effectively it allows us to work with the answer **before** we know what that answer is. This is a huge step towards finding the solution.

Let  represent the   
*appropriate variable*  
*what we want to find*

