



# A Bucket Full of Problems: Problem Solving Time Intervals

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Math  
Grades 3–5



## Introduction

Adding and subtracting time intervals can be tricky! In this lesson, students will review what it means to add and subtract time intervals. They will then practice writing their own story problems that involve time intervals, and place their story problems in a large bucket. Finally, they will draw from the bucket to answer their classmates' story problems.

## Learning Objectives

([CCSS.Math.Content.3.MD.A.1](#)) Tell and write time to the nearest minute and measure time intervals in minutes. Solve word problems involving addition and subtraction of time intervals in minutes, e.g., by representing the problem on a number line diagram.

## Materials Needed

- Bucket
- Paper and pencil

## Procedure

1. Remind students that lately they have been learning about solving story problems that involve time. Today they are going to make their own story problems and help solve their classmates'!
2. Begin by showing students the video [Addition and Subtraction of time Intervals](#) as a review for adding and subtracting time.
3. Tell students they are going to return to their desks. They are to create four story problems on a piece of paper. They will cut the paper into strips, leaving room for students to solve their problem. *\*Be sure students write their names on their problems, in case a classmate needs to ask them a question.*
4. Once they have their story problems written and cut into strips, they should place their story problem in a large bucket in the middle of the room. They should draw four strips from the bucket, return to their desk, and answer the story problem they drew.

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### Ideas for story problems to model with the class:

1. Antwan's favorite television starts at 3:30. If he gets home from school at 2:30, how long does he have until his show starts?
2. Camille has a lot of homework to do. She starts her social studies homework at 3:45 and ends at 4:30. Then she does science from 4:30 until 5:00. Lastly, she studies for a reading test from 5:00 – 5:30. How much total time did Camille spend on her homework and studying?
3. It takes Fred 3 hours to wash every window on a large apartment building. There are 40 windows. How many minutes does it take Fred to wash each window?

Once students have written and answered four story problems, they should turn in their completed story problems. Be sure both the name of the writer and the name of the completer are on the papers.

### Evaluation

- |                                                      |     |    |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|
| • Did the student write four solvable story problems | Yes | No |
| • Did the student answer four story problems?        | Yes | No |
| • Did the writer actively participate in the lesson? | Yes | No |