

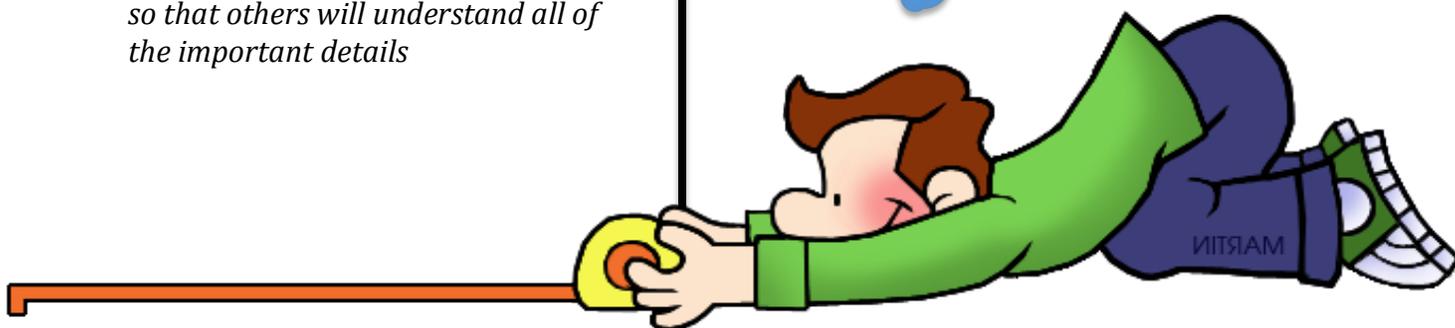
Math Practice #6: Attend to precision

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Paying attention to details is incredibly important in our day-to-day lives. When we don't pay attention to details, we make silly mistakes, create additional problems, and cause miscommunication, all of which could have easily been prevented. Attending to precision in the real world means:

- *Paying attention to details*
- *Deciding which details are important and which ones can be ignored*
- *Choosing how to carefully to keep track of details and knowing when something is good enough*
- *Communicating clearly and carefully so that others will understand all of the important details*

I pay attention to details, but I also keep the big picture in mind. I know when it is important to be exact and when it is okay to be "close enough" with my measurements and calculations. I label thoroughly and I choose my words carefully in order to communicate my answers clearly.



WHAT TO EXPECT IN MATH CLASS

Problems that require exactness.

Problems that are best solved by approximating.

Problems that require careful understanding of details.

Problems that require careful labeling and communication of details.

HOW TO SUPPORT

"What is the problem asking you to do or figure out?"

"Approximately what do you expect the answer to be?"

"What labels or units will you need for your answer to be complete?"

"Does your answer make sense? Why or why not?"

"What mathematical words and ideas best describe this situation?"

WHAT TO DO IN MATH CLASS

- *Look for details, and ask yourself which details are most important*
- *Be cautious and take your time; check your work as you go along*
- *Always check your answer to see if it makes sense*
- *Double-check to make sure you have answered the question that the problem is asking*
- *Make sure the answer is clear and complete, including labels and units when appropriate*
- *Communicate ideas and answers using appropriate mathematical words*