Problem-Solving Decision: Estimate or Exact Answers

Answer the following questions to help you organize what to tell your family about the subject. Then use the facts listed at the bottom of the page to write questions on a separate sheet of paper for your family to answer. For each set of facts, write one problem that needs an exact answer and one problem that needs an estimate. Check your family’s answers and discuss why each question required each kind of answer.

1. What is the difference between an exact answer and an estimated answer?

2. What words or phrases in a problem are clues that an estimate is needed?

3. How do you know when an exact answer is needed to solve a problem?

4. You need to use addition to solve two problems. One problem needs an exact answer, and the other needs an estimate. How will the ways you solve the two problems be different? How will the ways you write the two answers be different?

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**FACT SET 1**
- A tiger is 110 inches long.

**FACT SET 2**
- A whale can stay underwater up to 190 minutes.
- A seal can stay underwater up to 60 minutes.

**FACT SET 3**
- An elephant in the wild eats 450 pounds of food each day.
- An elephant in a zoo eats 150 pounds of food each day.