

Mathematical Reasoning

Here is a typical maths reasoning question:

What is the number when 8 is 2 smaller than half this number?

As you read these questions you must stop at the word 'than'. Draw a line through the question at this point - it really will help you. Now split the question into 2 parts like this:

8 is 2 smaller than | *half this number?*

Part 1

8 is 2 smaller than...
answer = 10

Part 2

So 10 is half this number
10 is half of 20

So the
answer is
20

Other examples for you to look at:

1. What is the number when:

14 is 6 larger than twice this number

14 is 6 larger than/*twice this number*
8/4

Answer: 4

→ I say to myself, 8 is twice this number, so the number must be 4

2. What is the number when:

15 is 2 more than half this number

15 is 2 more than/*half this number*
13/26

Answer: 26

→ I say to myself, 13 is half this number, so the number must be 26

3. 4 is 8 times smaller than this number:

4 is 8 times smaller than/*this number*:

Answer: 32

→ I say to myself, this number must be 8 times bigger than 4, so I multiply 4 x 8.

4. 10 is 2 times larger than this number:

10 is 2 times larger than/*this number*:

Answer: 5

→ I say to myself, this means this number must be 2 times smaller so here we divide 10 by 2.