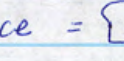





Representations in my Teaching

In class, our current Unit focuses a lot on units of measure in both the metric system and the U.S. customary system.

Based on MEAP data that I have separated based on concepts, this is an area where our students struggle. I like to use a lot of pictures of objects as representations of the actual units.

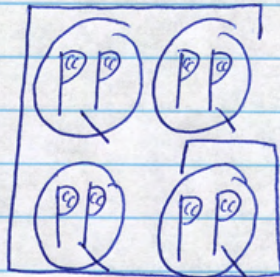
For example, I have large posters up in the room displaying the following:

U.S. Customary
1 ounce =  slice of bread
1 pound =  loaf of bread

Metric
1 gram =  paper-clip
1 kilogram =  tub of peanut butter

These representations for units of weight help the students to envision how heavy each unit of weight is, and it also makes it easier to compare the 2 systems of measure with each other. My students from middle school that return to visit have mentioned still using these pictures as representations.

Another representation that I use for capacity is below:



This representation helps to make the connection between the various units of capacity. It also supports the math that is involved in making conversions between units of capacity.