

Spending money

Annotation

Blake can read a subtraction equation with an unknown and can suggest an appropriate problem context. He recognises that he would use an inverse operation to solve the unknown.

Problem: Spending money

The teacher shows the following equation to the student:

$$\square - 73 = 144$$

Then the teacher asks:

Can you read this for me?

Student Response

Blake: Something minus 73 equals 144.

Teacher: Can you suggest a situation where you could use this equation?

Blake: It could be that I had some money, and after I spent \$73, I had \$144 left. So the box is how much I had to start with. To work it out though, I'd add the 73 to the 144.