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MATH 0997/1001-09 Quantitative Reasoning

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Ratio and Proportion

In this math class I have learned a lot that I did not know. I learned that daily we use math to help us get through our day. Weather it is at work, home, or traveling from place to place. One way that I have used math is while I was grocery shopping and cooking. When shopping for grocery I use the ratio and proportion method while comparing prices on items to see which is a better deal. For example, if I compare two boxes of cereals one cost 3 dollars and is a smaller box and the other one cost 5 dollars and is a bigger box. Well if you do the math you will see that the bigger box is a better deal. This is also a good way to teach your kids about math while grocery shopping. Before taking this class I use to just pick up the cheaper item not thinking that I could use ratio and proportion to find the better deal and save money. Working at Walmart I have noticed customer come in and buy items this past holiday, they would pick up items and compare them to each other and count how many people they would be feeding.

Another way we use ratio and proportion is when we are cooking. Even though a lot of people use this method at home, I found that more people use this method when they are cooking for a large group of people such as cooks at schools, restaurants, prisons and even in the military. When cooking for large groups you must use this method to be sure that there is enough food to feed everyone. Ratios of various ingredients in recipes are essential to cooking the most delicious meals. I have always wondered while growing up how my mother and grandmother always knew how much seasoning to use and how much food to cook so that everyone would be able to eat and to also have enough left over for later. I can’t remember ever seeing them use a measuring cup or even a recipe book, but I have learned over through the years that it comes with time and practice.

When I was driving semi-trucks over the road this method also came in good use while driving from Texas to California I used ratio to determine how long and approximately what time I will arrive to my destination. For example, if I was traveling at 60 miles per hour I would divided the miles from Texas to California by 60 minutes to get the time I will arrive to California. In this business being on time for a delivery is very important, this method helps me determine what time I need to start driving and how long I will be driving to make my delivery on time. You can also use this method when traveling with your family. When you are traveling with kids we all know that get very restless fast, and start asking that famous question are we there yet. This is a great time to have a math lesson with them and to help them understand how to determine how long it will take for them to reach their location. Just tell them how many miles it is from point a to point b and how fast you will be traveling. Then tell them to take the miles and divide it by the miles per hour. This will keep them busy for a little while and it may even get you some peace and quiet while driving.