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## Related rates worksheet with solutions

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Another reason is that after the implementation of all these derivatives, we need to be reminded that there are indeed actual applications of derivatives. Sometimes it's easy to forget that there's actually a reason that we spend all this time on derivatives. For these related problems, rates are generally best to just go straight into some problems and see how they work. Example 1 Example 1 Air is pumped into a spherical balloon at a speed of 5 cm<sup>3</sup>/min. Determine the speed at which the balloon radius increases when the diameter of the ball is 20 cm. Show the solution The first thing we will need to do here is determine what information we have been given and what we want to find. Before we do, let's notice that both the volume of the ball and the radius of the ball will vary depending on the time, and therefore indeed the function of the time, ie  $V(t)$  and  $r(t)$ . We know that the air is pumped into the balloon at a speed of 5 cm<sup>3</sup>/min. This is the rate at which the volume increases. Recall that the pace of change is nothing short of derivative, and so we know that  $V'(t) = 5$ . We want to determine the speed at which the radius changes. Again, rates are derivatives, and so it looks like we want to define  $r'(t) = ?$ . Note that we need to convert the diameter to a radius. Now that we have determined what we have been given and what we want to find, we have to link these two quantities to each other. In this case, we can associate the volume and radius with the scope formula.  $V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$ . As in the previous section, when we looked at the implicit differentiation, we wouldn't normally use  $V(t)$  some of the things in formulas, but since it's time through one of them we will do this to remind ourselves that they really function  $V(t)$ . Now we don't really want a connection between volume and radius. What we really want is a relationship between their derivatives. We can do this by differentiating both sides with respect to  $t$ . In other words, we will need to make an implicit differentiation according to the above formula. This gives  $V' = 4\pi r^2 r'$  note that at this point we have gone ahead and dropped  $V(t)$  from each term. Now all we have to do is plug in what we know and decide for what we want to find.  $5 = 4\pi (10)^2 r'$   $r' = \frac{5}{400\pi}$   $r' = \frac{1}{80\pi}$  cm/min. The derived units will be numerator units (cm in the previous example) separated by denominator units (min. in the previous example). Let's look at a few more examples. Example 2 Ladder 15 feet rests on the wall. The bottom is originally 10 feet from the wall and pushed against the wall at a speed of  $\frac{1}{4}$  ft/sec. How fast does the top of the ladder move up the wall 12 seconds after we start pushing? Show the solution The first thing to do in this case is paint a picture that shows us what is happening. We determined the distance of the bottom of the ladder from the wall to  $x(t)$  and the distance of the top of the ladder from the floor to  $y(t)$ . Note also that they change over time, and so we really have to write  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$ . As is often the case with related rates/anything-related differentiation problems, we don't write the  $x(t)$  part just to try to remember it in our heads as we get down to the problem. If you're looking for a place to stay, you'll need to make sure that you're not sure what you're looking for, because  $y(t)$  will be increased. As in the first example, we first need a relationship between  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$ . We can get this with the Pythagorean theorem.  $x^2 + y^2 = 15^2$ . All we have to do at this point is differentiate both sides relative to  $t$ , remembering that  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$  are really functions  $x(t)$  and therefore we will need to make an implicit differentiation. This gives an equation that shows the relationship between  $2x x' + 2y y' = 0$ . Next, let's see which different parts of this equation we know and what we need to find. We know  $x(0) = 10$  and we are asked to identify  $y(12)$ , so it's ok that we don't know what. But we still need to identify  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$ . The definition of  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$  is actually quite simple. We know that  $x(0) = 10$  and the end is pushed to the wall at a speed of  $\frac{1}{4}$  ft/sec and that we are interested in what happened after 12 seconds. We know that  $x(t) = 10 - \frac{1}{4}t$  (after 12 seconds) all we have to do is reuse Pythagorean theorem with the values  $x(t)$  we just found above.  $y = \sqrt{225 - x^2} = \sqrt{225 - 49} = \sqrt{176}$ . Now all we have to do is connect to  $y'$  and decide for  $y'$ .  $2x x' + 2y y' = 0$   $y' = -\frac{x x'}{y} = -\frac{7 \cdot \frac{1}{4}}{\sqrt{176}} = -\frac{7}{4\sqrt{176}} = -\frac{7}{4 \cdot 4\sqrt{16 \cdot 7}} = -\frac{7}{16 \cdot 2\sqrt{7}} = -\frac{7}{32\sqrt{7}}$ . Note that we got the correct sign for  $y'$ . If we had gotten negative value, we would have known we had made a mistake and we could go back and look for it. Before working with another example, we need to make comments about setting up a previous problem. When we marked our sketch, we recognized that hypotenuse is permanent and so simply called it 15 feet. A common mistake students sometimes make here is to also mark hypotenuse as a letter, say  $z(t)$ , in this case. Well, it's not really a mistake to label a letter, but it will often cause a problem down the road. If we had denoted hypotenuse  $z(t)$ , the Pythagorean theorem and its derivative would have been,  $x^2 + y^2 = z^2$   $2x x' + 2y y' = 2z z'$ . Again, there is nothing wrong with this, but it requires that we recognize the values of two more quantities,  $x(t)$  and  $z(t)$ . Since  $z(t)$  is only a hypotenuse that is explicitly  $z=15$ . The problem that some students sometimes face is to determine the value of  $z'(t)$ . In this case, we must remember that because the staircase, and therefore the hypotenuse has a fixed length, its length cannot change and so  $z' = 0$ . Connecting both of these values to the derivative gives us the same equation we got in the example, but required a little more effort to get to. It would be easier to simply mark hypotenuse 15 to begin with and not have to worry about remembering that  $z' = 0$ . Fixed quantity marking (the length of the ladder in this example) letter is sometimes easy to forget that it is a fixed amount, and therefore the derivative should be zero. If you don't remember this, the problem becomes impossible to end because you will have two unknown quantities that you will have to deal with. In any problem there has been a quantity fixed and will never be over the course of changing the problem it is always better to simply acknowledge that and mark it with its cost rather than letter. Of course, if we had a sliding ladder that was allowed to change, we would have to mark it with a letter. However, for such a problem we will also need a little more information in the statement about the problem to actually make the problem. Practice issues in this section have several problems in which all three sides of the right triangle change. You should check them out and see if you can work them out. Example 3 Two people are 20 feet apart. One of them begins to walk north at speed so that the angle shown in the diagram below changes at a constant speed of 0.01 radians/min. At what speed does the distance between

