Understanding Word Problems, Part 1

Whenever repeated addition (adding the same number many times) would solve a problem, you can use multiplication.

In such problems, EACH thing or person has the same amount, or EACH thing costs the same amount, and so on. Watch for the word “each” — it often means you use multiplication.

1. Write a multiplication sentence for each problem. You can draw pictures to help.

   a. Four children are playing tennis together. They each brought six balls. How many tennis balls do they have altogether? 
      \[ ___ \times ___ = _____ \]

   b. There are five people in the Smith family. Each person keeps a hand towel and a bath towel in the bathroom. How many towels are there hanging in their bathroom? 
      \[ ___ \times ___ = _____ \]

   c. A certain town has three post offices. Each post office has five workers. How many postal workers do the post offices have altogether? 
      \[ ___ \times ___ = _____ \]

   d. The Jones family ordered three veggie pizzas and one chicken pizza. Each pizza was sliced into four pieces. How many slices of pizza were there? 
      \[ ___ \times ___ = _____ \]

   e. Mrs. Anderson has two plastic flower pots and two ceramic ones. In each pot there are five flowers. How many flowers does she have? 
      \[ ___ \times ___ = _____ \]

   f. The teacher was putting crayons in bags. She had seven bags, but one of the bags was broken, so she only used six. She put 10 crayons in each bag. How many crayons did the teacher put in the bags? 
      \[ ___ \times ___ = _____ \]