Two-step word problems · Worked key

Multiply twice

Read the first quantity with its unit. Other correct equations are welcome.

1. Total rows

4 × 4 = 16 rows.

16 × 2 = 32 seats. n = (4 × 4) × 2.

Check: using 15 and 20 for the first amount gives 30 and 40.
The exact answer, 32, falls between those bounds.

Another route: 4 × 2 = 8 seats per show; 8 × 4 = 32.

Open guided practice for problem 1

2. Total bags

3 × 4 = 12 bags.

12 × 3 = 36 marbles. n = (3 × 4) × 3.

Check: using 10 and 15 for the first amount gives 30 and 45.
The exact answer, 36, falls between those bounds.

Another route: 4 × 3 = 12 marbles per carton; 12 × 3 = 36.

Open guided practice for problem 2

3. Total envelopes

3 × 2 = 6 envelopes.

6 × 2 = 12 cards. n = (3 × 2) × 2.

Check: using 5 and 10 for the first amount gives 10 and 20.
The exact answer, 12, falls between those bounds.

Another route: 2 × 2 = 4 cards per box; 4 × 3 = 12.

Open guided practice for problem 3

4. Total tables

2 × 2 = 4 tables.

4 × 2 = 8 chairs. n = (2 × 2) × 2.

Check: using 0 and 5 for the first amount gives 0 and 10.
The exact answer, 8, falls between those bounds.

Another route: 2 × 2 = 4 chairs per room; 4 × 2 = 8.

Open guided practice for problem 4