

**Language is a model  
for thinking.  
Precise language  
results in precise  
thinking.**

$$3 + 4 = 3(1) + 4(1)$$

“Three and four”

“Three ones and  
four ones”

$$8 - 5$$

“Eight losing five”

$$8 + - 5$$

“Eight and a debt of  
five”

$$-12 - -7$$

“A debt of twelve  
losing a debt of  
seven”

$$-9 + - 5$$

“A debt of nine and  
a debt of five”

$$8(5)$$

“Eight fives”  
“Eight of five”

$$3(4+6)$$

“Three of the  
quantity or sum of  
four and six”

$$3(4 - 6)$$

“Three of the  
quantity of four  
losing six”

$$5(6(2))$$

“Five of six twos”  
“Five of the product  
of six of two”

$$2(\frac{1}{3})$$

“Two-thirds”  
“Two of one-third”

$$4(\frac{5}{8}) = 4(5(\frac{1}{8}))$$

“Four of five-eighths”  
“Four of five of one  
eighth”

$$9 \div 4$$

“Nine divided into  
groups of four”

$$3(4(2)) + 2(5(3))$$

“Three of the quantity  
of four of two and  
two of the quantity of  
five of three”

$$-2(-6)$$

“A loss of two debts  
of six”

$$5.4 = 5\frac{4}{10}$$

“Five and four  
tenths”

