

Clinical Interview — Grayson Wheatley

Transcript, Part 3: Pool/walkway problem

(“G” is Grayson Wheatley; “S” is the student.)

G – Let’s look at this problem. If you would read this one here please.

S – A swimming pool in the shape of a rectangle is surrounded by 3 feet of walkway. The pool is 23 feet wide and 32 feet long. How long would the fence be that just encloses the walkway and the pool?

G – Take your time to think what it means.

S – I’ll draw a rectangle and 3 feet wide surrounded by 3 feet wide walkway and then the pool is 23 feet wide and 32 feet long. So they just want to know how long it is.

G – I’m going to a hardware store to buy a fence and I want to know how much fence to order.

S – OK

G – Tell us what you have done here.

S – I was trying to find the area of the rectangle which is the pool.

G – And you did that by multiplying 23 times 32 and you came up with 736. OK.

S – And then, I am not sure, just 3 times 3 equal 9.

G – Just try anything you like. So, where is the fence that we are going to build in terms of your picture here? Where would the fence be?

S – It would be around the outside.

G – Yeah, that’s where it would be and we want to know how much fencing to buy.

S – OK, lets try 23 plus 3, 26, and 32 plus 3 cause it is all the way around. The let’s to that instead. OK, let’s try about...OK, I took the 23 and added the 3 and the 32 and added the 3 and I multiplied the sums and got 850.

G – Yes.

S – So I think that’s...

G – So when I go to the hardware store, I should order 850 feet of fencing and that would just do it.

S – I think so.

G – OK, so 850 feet would be the distance around the pool. I understand just how you thought about it. Thanks a lot.