Structures of Equality Explained

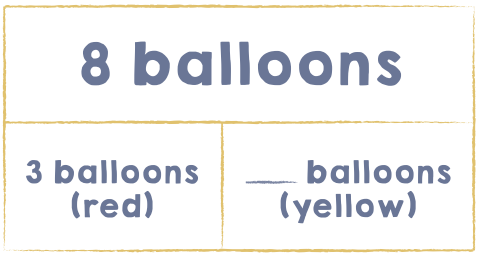
What is a Structure of Equality?

It is a **graphic organizer**.
It is a **representation of equality**.
It has **values** and **labels**.
It represents the **structure** or **relationships** occurring in a math story.

Parts Equal Total

Parts Equal Total Structures (bar models/tape models) are helpful if a math story describes 2 or more parts being put together (composed) to form a total or when a story describes a total being taken apart (decomposed) into 2 or more parts.

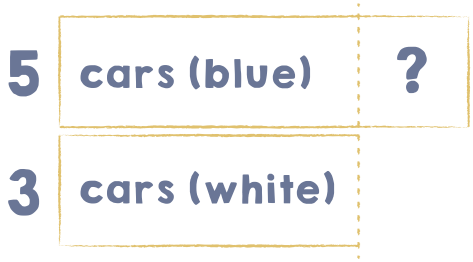
Example: Ms. Felder has 8 balloons. Three are red. The rest are yellow. How many are yellow?



Compare

Compare Structures (bar models/tape models) are helpful if a math story describes a situation where quantities are being compared. (Sometimes the question asks for the smaller value when given the larger value and the difference. Sometimes the question asks for the difference between two values and sometimes the question will ask for the larger value when the smaller value and the difference are given.)

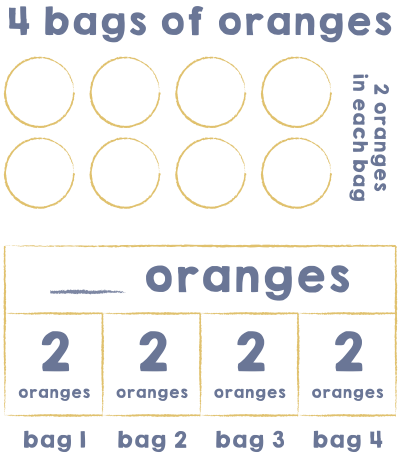
Example: There are five blue cars and 3 white cars in the parking lot. How many more blue cars are there than white cars in the parking lot?



Repeated Equal Groups

Repeated Equal Groups structures are helpful if a math story describes putting equal groups together or decomposing a total into equal groups.

Example: There are 4 bags of oranges with 2 oranges in each bag. How many oranges are there in all?



structures *of* equality