Comparison Models: An Introduction

In situations involving comparison models, a quantity is compared to another. Let us look at two examples of such situations.

**Seashells Problem**
Juan has 3 more seashells than Kim. Juan and Kim have 15 seashells altogether. Find the number of seashells that Juan has.

**Money Problem**
Lanny has 3 times as much money as Ming. Lanny and Ming have $120 altogether. Find the amount of money Lanny has.

In the **Seashells Problem**, the number of seashells Juan has is compared to the number of seashells that Kim has.

In the **Money Problem**, the amount of money Lanny has is compared to the amount of money Ming has.

Here, we see that the first problem is an example of additive comparison while the second problem is an example of multiplicative comparison.

In additive comparison, one quantity is a certain amount **more or less** than another quantity.

In multiplicative comparison, one quantity is a certain **number of times** another quantity.

A common mistake that students make is misinterpreting 'B is 3 more than A' and 'B is 3 times as much as A'. The model method helps students avoid these problems.

Now, let us solve the **Seashells Problem** and the **Money Problem** using comparison models.