

Nib's Field Notes: Algebra in Disguise

Fascinating discovery: Humans use algebra constantly without recognizing it. Below are common scenarios. Your brain is already doing algebraic



Adjusting a plan when something changes

→ working with unknowns



Choosing between two options

→ comparing variables



Figuring out what caused a problem

→ cause-and-effect thinking



•Breaking a big task into smaller steps

→ step-by-step reasoning



Predicting what might happen next

→ pattern recognition



Algebra in Disguise

Scenario: You have a lot of homework, but you're not sure how long each will take to finish.

Question: How do you decide what to do first? _____

Scenario: Your phone battery is low, you don't have a charger, but you'll need it later.

Question: What do you change about how you use it? _____

Scenario: You notice that the same thing keeps happening in a class.

Question: What do you expect will happen next? _____

