Answers and talk notes

Apply Area Concepts to Solve Problems

What your student is learning

Tonight we find the area of a composite figure — a shape made of two or more simple shapes joined together, like an L-shaped room. We break it apart, find each piece, then add or subtract.

Answers

Ask your student to explain before you look.

1. **B.** A shape made of two or more simple shapes joined together. A shape made of two or more simple shapes joined together is a composite figure, like an L-shaped room.
2. **A.** 16 square units. 16 square units: 5 × 2 = 10, 3 × 2 = 6, and 10 + 6 = 16.
3. **B.** 30. 30 is what is left: 9 × 4 = 36, 3 × 2 = 6, and 36 − 6 = 30.
4. **C.** Subtract it. Subtract it: the hole is empty space, so take its area away.
5. **D.** 54 cm². 54 cm²: 6 triangles × 9 cm² = 54 cm².

Talk about it

Which pieces did you add, and which piece did you subtract?

Home mission

Cut a square out of one corner of a sheet of paper to make an L. How could you split the L into two rectangles? Is there a second way to find its area?

When they are stuck, ask

- What simple shapes can we break this into?
- Are the pieces joined, or is one cut out?
- Let's find each area first, then decide to add or subtract.

Try not to say

- Multiply the two pieces together.
- Always add — never subtract.
- Just measure around the outside edge.