

# Puzzle of the Week

## *Letter Substitutions – 11*

---

Rules:

1. A letter represents a digit from 0 to 9, and has the same value throughout a single puzzle.
2. No number can start with the digit 0.
3. Within a puzzle, different letters must have different values.

$$\begin{array}{r} 8 \\ + \underline{A} \\ B \ 2 \end{array} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{r} 8 \\ + \underline{4} \\ 1 \ 2 \end{array}$$

**THE CHALLENGE:** Find the value of A, B, C, D, and E to make this puzzle work.

$$\begin{array}{r} A \ B \ C \ D \ E \\ \times \ \underline{\hspace{10em}} \ A \\ E \ E \ E \ E \ E \ E \end{array}$$

**EXPLORATION:** Make some letter substitution puzzles for others to solve.

# Puzzle of the Week

## *Letter Substitutions – 11 – Notes*

---

**THE CHALLENGE:** The key to solving this is to focus on  $A \times E = E$ ,  $1E$ ,  $2E$ , or whatever is needed before the  $E$ . There are very few combinations of single digits that have this property. Note that  $A$  cannot be 0 or 1, and  $E$  cannot be 0. Here is the list of the possibilities, listing as  $A, E$ :

$$3, 5: 3 \times 5 = 15$$

$$5, 1: 5 \times 1 = 5$$

$$5, 3: 5 \times 3 = 15$$

$$5, 7: 5 \times 7 = 35$$

$$5, 9: 5 \times 9 = 45$$

$$7, 5: 7 \times 5 = 35$$

$$9, 5: 9 \times 5 = 45$$

Once you have this list, it is quick work to see that  $A = 7$  and  $E = 5$  is the only one that works. This gives the solution  $A = 7, B = 9, C = 3, D = 6$ , and  $E = 5$ . The finished puzzle looks like this:

$$\begin{array}{r} 7\ 9\ 3\ 6\ 5 \\ \times \quad \quad \quad 7 \\ \hline 5\ 5\ 5\ 5\ 5\ 5 \end{array}$$