

38. 1. Understanding the Problem

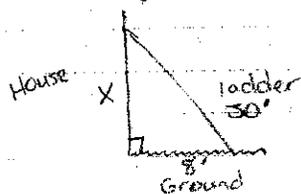
The problem is asking what the difference would be in where the ladder rests against the wall if a 30 ft ladder was moved from being 8 feet from the wall to 15 from the wall.

2. Devising a Plan

My plan is to draw pictures to represent the two different scenarios. Then I will use the pythagorean theorem to find the height at which the ladder rests against the wall ^{for each scenario}. Since the wall, ground, and ladder form a right triangle. After that I will subtract the two to find how far the ladder moved.

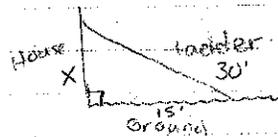
3. Carry out the Plan

Original position



$$\begin{aligned}a^2 + b^2 &= c^2 \\8^2 + b^2 &= 30^2 \\64 + b^2 &= 900 \\b^2 &= 836 \\b &= 28.91 \text{ ft}\end{aligned}$$

After ladder is moved



$$\begin{aligned}a^2 + b^2 &= c^2 \\15^2 + b^2 &= 30^2 \\225 + b^2 &= 900 \\b^2 &= 675 \\b &= 25.98\end{aligned}$$

$$28.91 - 25.98 = 2.93 \approx 3 \text{ ft}$$

The ladder will move 3 feet down the side of the house.

4. Looking Back

This problem was easy to solve and my first method worked for figuring out the problem. After looking at the problem I do not see an easier way to solve it. It would be quicker not using the visuals, but I like using the pictures so that I have a way to organize the information and it helps me make fewer mistakes.