

Long Jump



Ben is hoping to enter the long jump at his school sports day. One day I saw him manage quite a good jump. However, after practising several days a week he finds that he can jump half as far again as he did before. This last jump was 3.75 metres long. So how long was the first jump that I saw?



Now Mia has been practising for the high jump. I saw that she managed a fairly good jump, but after training hard, she managed to jump half as high again as she did before. This last jump was 1.20 metres. So how high was the first jump that I saw?

Try to show how you would solve this problem, using whatever method you choose. Can you find any other ways of finding a solution? Which way do you prefer? Why?

Extension: How far can you jump with a standing long jump? What is your average over 6 jumps?