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Steps to solving trig word problems

1. Draw a picture. (Right triangle)
2. Label the given parts.
3. Set up the trig ratios and solve.


Ex1) Find the angle of elevation if you are standing 400 ft . away and the building is 850 ft . tall?


Ex2) From the top of a tower, the angle of depression to a stake on the ground is $60^{\circ}$. The top of the tower is 80 feet above ground. How far is the stake from the foot of the tower?

Ex3) A ladder leaning against a house makes an angle of $30^{\circ}$ with the ground. The foot of the ladder is 7 feet from the foot of the house. How long is the ladder?

Ex4) You are a block away from a skyscraper that is 780 feet tall. Your friend is between the skyscraper and yourself. The angle of elevation from your position to the top of the skyscraper is $42^{\circ}$. The angle of elevation from your friend's position to the top of the skyscraper is $71^{\circ}$. To the nearest foot, how far are you from your friend?


Sometimes you need to add lines to your drawing to create right triangles.
Find the distance of BC.
Hint: add the altitude from vertex $B$.


