Using Estimation with Word Problems Lesson

Estimation comes in very handy when you want to know an

answer quickly, but you don't need an exact answer.

Problem: Earl is a tennis coach. His Athletic Director asks him if he should order a sleeve (52 balls), a case (120 balls), or a crate (250 balls) of tennis balls for Earl's season. Earl's team needs 20 balls for practice and 8 new balls for every match the team has. The team has 9 matches this year. Should Earl ask his Athletic Director a sleeve, a case, or crate of tennis balls?

Explanation:

Step 1) Quickly estimate the number of balls that Earl will need.

Total balls = 20 balls for practice + the number of balls needed for matches.

Match balls = 9 matches x 10 balls (8 rounded) = 90 balls

Total balls = 20 + 90 = 110 balls

Step 2) Determine which order will best satisfy the number of balls needed.

Sleeve = 52 balls   Case = 120 balls   Crate = 250 balls

We need 110 balls. A case or crate will satisfy the number of balls that we need.