*Episode 3.3*

The teacher is leading the class through a solution to a worksheet problem, allowing various students to respond. The class used a mnemonic called LESA [Let the variable stand for something, write an Equation, Solve the equation, Answer the question] to solve word problems.

1. T: Number 5 says, find two consecutive integers such that the sum of their squares is 61, so "L", what are our variables? C'mon, folks.

2. S*: 2 and 61. [hard to hear]

3. T: What is it?

4. S*: 2 and 61.

5. T: Are those variables?

6. S*: *A* and *B*.

7. T: What are we looking for?

8. S*: Two integers that go in 61.

9. T: OK, we're looking for two integers, so I'll call integer *A* and one integer *B*.

(…)

10. T: OK, so can we come up with two equations for our unknowns?

11. S*: $A^2 + B^2 = 61$

12. T: Everybody agree with that one?

13. S*: I guess.

14. T: OK, what's the other equation? Do we have another equation here?

15. S*: You get the 61 and bring it to the other side.

16. T: Hold on, I don't want to solve them. I am looking for a second equation here. I got two unknowns, I need a second equation here.

17. S*: Are you supposed to do like $B + 1$ because it's like a consecutive number?