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17 – Related Rates

1. A 10 ft ladder rest against a vertical wall. If the bottom of the ladder is pulled away from the wall at a rate of 1.5 ft/s, how fast is the top of the ladder sliding down the wall at the moment when the bottom of the ladder is 6 ft from the wall?

(a) Picture

(c) Relating equation for the quantities

(d) Relating equation for the rates

(b) Known & Unknown Rates

(e) Solution

- Rate(s) you know:

- Rate(s) you want:

2. At a quarry, sand is being added to the top of a pile of sand at a rate of 12 ft^3 per minute. The pile stays in the shape of a cone, with the diameter of the base always equal to the height of the pile. When the pile has reached a height of 6 feet, how fast is the height of the pile continuing to grow?

(a) Picture

(c) Relating equation for the quantities

(d) Relating equation for the rates

(b) Known & Unknown Rates

(e) Solution

- Rate(s) you know:

- Rate(s) you want:

3. A spotlight located on the ground shines on a wall 12 m away. If a 2 m tall person walks from the spotlight toward the building a speed of 1.6 m/s, how fast is the length of their shadow on the building changing at the moment when they are 4 m from the building?
4. A cat runs along a straight path at a speed of 4 ft/s. A searchlight is located on the ground 20 ft from the path and is kept focused on the cat. At what rate is the searchlight rotating when the cat is 15 ft from the point on the path closest to the searchlight?