

In all the problems the line BE is the 6 foot woman. In the first four problems the light is at C and the shadow is the line AE. In the last four problems the light is at A and the shadow is the line CD. Similar triangles always gives the same equation

$$\frac{AE}{BE} = \frac{AD}{CD}$$
 or  $\frac{y}{6} = \frac{x+y}{h}$ 

Usually exactly two of the three variables x, y or h vary, while the third is constant. But in problems 5 and 6 the constant is the sum x + y and all three of x, y and h vary.

Problem	Shadow	Varying	Constant	Given	Want
1	y	x  and  y	h	$\frac{dx}{dt} = 2$	$\frac{dy}{dt}$ when $x = 20$
2	y	x  and  y	h	$\frac{dx}{dt} = -3$	$-\frac{dy}{dt}$ when $x = 20$
3	y	h and $y$	x	$\frac{dh}{dt} = -2$	$\frac{dy}{dt}$ when $h = 30$
4	y	h and $y$	x	$\frac{dh}{dt} = 3$	$-\frac{dy}{dt}$ when $h = 30$
5	h	x, y  and  h		$\frac{dx}{dt} = -2$	$\frac{dh}{dt}$ when $x = 20$ and $y = 10$
6	h	x, y  and  h		$\frac{dx}{dt} = 3$	$\frac{dh}{dt}$ when $x = 20$ and $y = 10$
7	h	y and $h$	x	$\frac{dy}{dt} = -3$	$\frac{dh}{dt}$ when $x = 20$ and $y = 10$
8	h	y and $h$	x	$\frac{dy}{dt} = 2$	$\frac{dh}{dt}$ when $x = 20$ and $y = 10$