

Math Diversion Problem 759

P. Reany

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Young men should prove theorems, old
men should write books.
— G. H. Hardy

The material here is found at:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BsTqhZKeCw>
Title: Can you solve?
Presenter: Mathpoints

1 The Problem

Given the relation

$$a + b = 5\sqrt{ab}, \quad (1)$$

find the real values of a/b .

2 The Solution

Let

$$\eta \equiv \frac{a}{b}, \quad (2)$$

then, after dividing (1) through by b , it becomes

$$\eta + 1 = 5\sqrt{\eta}, \quad (3)$$

or even better

$$\eta - 5\sqrt{\eta} + 1 = 0, \quad (4)$$

which is a quadratic in $\sqrt{\eta}$. Hence,

$$\sqrt{\eta} = \frac{5 \pm \sqrt{21}}{2}, \quad (5)$$

with solutions for η :

$$\eta_+ = \frac{23 + 5\sqrt{21}}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \eta_- = \frac{2}{23 + 5\sqrt{21}}, \quad (6)$$