6.RP Friends Meeting on Bicycles

Task

Taylor and Anya live 63 miles apart. Sometimes on a Saturday, they ride their bikes toward each other's houses and meet somewhere in between. Taylor is a very consistent rider - she finds that her speed is always very close to 12.5 miles per hour. Anya rides more slowly than Taylor, but she is working out and so she is becoming a faster rider as the weeks go by.

a. On a Saturday in July, the two friends set out on their bikes at 8 am. Taylor rides at 12.5 miles per hour, and Anya rides at 5.5 miles per hour. After one hour, how far apart are they?

b. Make a table showing how far apart the two friends are after zero hours, one hour, two hours, and three hours.

c. At what time will the two friends meet?

d. Taylor says, "If I ride at 12.5 miles per hour toward you, and you ride at 5.5 miles per hour toward me, it's the same as if you stay still and I ride at 18 miles per hour." What do you think Taylor means by this? Is she correct?

e. A couple of months later, on a Saturday in September, the two friends set out again on their bikes at 8 am. Taylor, as always, rides at 12.5 miles per hour. This time they meet at 11 am. How fast was Anya riding this time?