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**Set partitions and the multiplication principle.**

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Summary: To further understand student thinking in the context of combinatorial enumeration, we examine student work on a problem involving set partitions. In this context, we note some key features of the multiplication principle that were often not attended to by students. We also share a productive way of thinking that emerged for several students who were then able to resolve the issues in question. We conclude with pedagogical implications.

*Classification:* K25

*Keywords:* combinatorics; multiplication principle; discrete mathematics; counting problems

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