The perimeter of a rectangle is 96 centimeters. If its length is 10 centimeters greater than its width, what is the area of the rectangle?

• We first sketch the rectangle. Let *x*=*length* , *y*=*width* 

- Then x = y + 10 and 2x + 2y = 96.
- Now solve the system of equations:  $\begin{array}{l} x=y+10\\ 2x+2y=96 \end{array}$

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$$\begin{array}{c} x - y = 10 \\ x + y = 48 \end{array}$$
  $2x = 58$  ,  $x = 29$ 

- Since x = y+10, y = x-10, y = 29-10, y=19
- The area of the rectangle is  $x \cdot y = 551 \ cm^2$ .