MATH

Addition and subtraction word problems

Name _____ Date _____

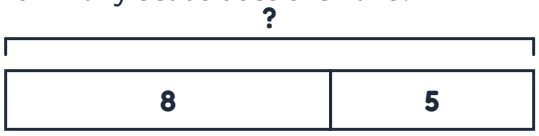
I can solve adding and subtracting stories.

1 How to solve a word problem

1. **Read** Read the whole problem twice.
2. **Find** Find the question. Underline it.
3. **Draw** Draw a bar model or a picture.
4. **Solve** Pick + − × or ÷ and solve.
5. **Check** Does the answer make sense?

Example

Mia has 8 red beads and 5 blue beads.
How many beads does she have?



8 + 5 = 13 beads

2 Your turn

Draw a bar model, then solve.

1. There are 49 birds in a tree. 36 fly away. How many birds are still in the tree?

Answer: _____

Draw it

2. Adam has 14 stickers. Omar gives Adam 17 more. How many stickers does Adam have now?

Answer: _____

Draw it

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

One-step problems

Name _____ Date _____

I can choose the operation and solve a one-step problem.

1 Read, solve, write the answer

Write the unit too: apples, dollars, feet ...

1 A class has 15 girls and 17 boys. How many children are in the class?

Answer:

2 Ben read 69 pages. Sam read 32 pages. How many more pages did Ben read than Sam?

Answer:

3 There are 78 apples in a basket. 42 are red and the rest are green. How many apples are green?

Answer:

4 Ravi had 29 cards. Mia gave Ravi some more. Now Ravi has 44 cards. How many cards did Mia give?

Answer:

5 Hana has 45 crayons. Hana gives 13 crayons to a friend. How many crayons does Hana have left?

Answer:

6 A bus has 40 people on it. At the next stop, 16 more people get on. How many people are on the bus now?

Answer:

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

Pick the operation

Name _____ Date _____

I can tell which operation a problem needs.

1 Circle + or –, then solve

Solve in the box.

1. 19 kids are at the park. 8 go home. How many stay? (+) (–) ☐
2. 12 red cars and 5 blue cars. How many cars in all? (+) (–) ☐
3. There are 12 cats. 4 run away. How many are left? (+) (–) ☐
4. Aisha has 6 pens and gets 9 more. How many now? (+) (–) ☐
5. Lily has 17 cards. Sara has 6. How many more does Lily have? (+) (–) ☐
6. 8 boys and 7 girls are on a team. How many children? (+) (–) ☐

2 Write a number sentence, then solve

1 The library has 45 books about animals and 33 books about space. How many books is that in all?

Number sentence: ☐ **Answer:** ☐

2 Noor has 90 marbles. Leo has 11 fewer marbles than Noor. How many marbles does Leo have?

Number sentence: ☐ **Answer:** ☐

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

Two-step problems

Name _____ Date _____

I can solve a problem that takes two steps.

1 Two steps: plan, solve, check

Find what you need to know first.

1 Aisha picked 25 strawberries. Aisha's brother picked 15 fewer. How many strawberries did they pick together?

Answer: _____

Step 1 · Step 2

2 A shelf holds 46 books. 25 books are taken out and 15 new books are put in. How many books are on the shelf now?

Answer: _____

Step 1 · Step 2

3 Sam had 74 cards. Sam gave 14 to Ali and 24 to Mia. How many cards does Sam have left?

Answer: _____

Step 1 · Step 2

4 There are 19 red, 13 blue and 13 green balloons at a party. How many balloons are there in all?

Answer: _____

Step 1 · Step 2

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: addition and subtraction word problems

1 Page 1

Your turn: 1) 49 − 36 = 13 (13 birds); 2) 14 + 17 = 31 (31 stickers).

2 Page 2

One-step problems: 1) 15 + 17 = 32 (32 children); 2) 69 − 32 = 37 (37 more pages); 3) 78 − 42 = 36 (36 green apples); 4) 44 − 29 = 15 (15 cards); 5) 45 − 13 = 32 (32 crayons); 6) 40 + 16 = 56 (56 people).

3 Page 3

Operation: 1) −: 19 − 8 = 11; 2) +: 12 + 5 = 17; 3) −: 12 − 4 = 8; 4) +: 6 + 9 = 15; 5) −: 17 − 6 = 11; 6) +: 8 + 7 = 15.

Number sentences: 1) 45 + 33 = 78 (78 books); 2) 90 − 11 = 79 (79 marbles).

4 Page 4: two-step problems

Two-step: 1) 25 − 15 = 10, 25 + 10 = 35 (35 strawberries); 2) 46 − 25 = 21, 21 + 15 = 36 (36 books); 3) 14 + 24 = 38, 74 − 38 = 36 (36 cards); 4) 19 + 13 + 13 = 45 (45 balloons).

5 Teaching tip

Compare problems ("how many more") are the hardest. Line up two rows of counters, one for each child in the story, and count the extras. That is the difference.

Scan for more free practice