MATH

Addition and subtraction word problems



Name _____ Date _____

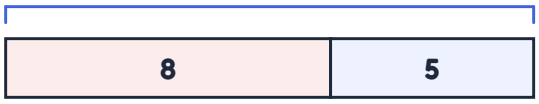
🎯 **I can solve adding and subtracting stories.**

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? ☆ ☆ ☆

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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? ☆ ☆ ☆

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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? ☆ ☆ ☆

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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? ☆ ☆ ☆

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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.

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