MATH · WORD PROBLEMS

Word problem clue words

+ Add

- in all
- altogether
- total
- sum
- both
- combined
- plus
- more than (to find a total)

12 red and 5 blue cars. How many in all?

− Subtract

- left
- remain
- how many more
- how many fewer
- difference
- take away
- change (money)
- farther, taller, older

20 birds. 6 fly away. How many are left?

× Multiply

- each (to find a total)
- every
- times as many
- groups of
- rows of
- per (to find a total)
- double, triple
- of (with fractions)

4 bags with 6 apples each. How many apples?

÷ Divide

- share equally
- split
- each gets
- how many in each
- how many groups
- per (to find one)
- half, a third
- cut into equal pieces

24 cookies on 4 plates. How many on each?

Clue words help, but they can trick you. "How many more" can mean add or subtract. Always read the whole problem and ask: what is happening in the story?

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