Word Problems with Addition and Subtraction Worksheet

Choose add or subtract and solve short word problems.

NAME _____ DATE _____ SCORE _____

MY GOALS

- I can practice word problems with addition and subtraction.
- I can use word problem.
- I can use the word sum.
- I can use the word difference.

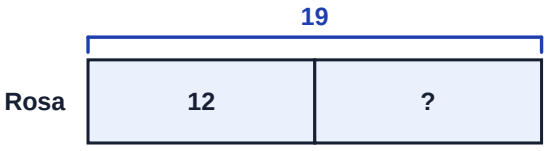
LEARN IT

Use clue words to add or subtract

Word problems are short stories that ask for a number. Read carefully, find clue words like 'in all' or 'left', and choose addition or subtraction. Then write a number sentence and calculate the answer.

WATCH ME

Rosa had 12 apples. She picked 7 more. How many apples does Rosa have in all?



1. Find the clue word: 'more' and 'in all' tell us to add.
2. Write the number sentence: 12 + 7.
3. Add: 12 + 7 = 19. Check the story: more means combine the two amounts.

ANSWER **19**

KEY WORDS

Word problem A math question told as a short real-life story

Clue words Words that hint to add or subtract

Sum The answer when you add numbers

REMEMBER

- Look for clue words that tell you to add or subtract
- 'In all' and 'altogether' usually mean add
- 'Left', 'fewer' and 'take away' usually mean subtract

WATCH OUT

Always re-read the question and circle clue words so you pick the right operation.

PART A Warm up

1 FILL IN THE BLANK

Solve each. Write the missing number in the blank.

a) 7 + 5 = _____

b) 9 - 3 = _____

c) 6 + 4 = _____

d) 10 - 1 = _____

PART B Practice

2 FILL IN THE BLANK

Read each short story. Write the number asked in the blank.

a) Lina has 8 markers. She gets 5 more. How many does she have in all? _____

b) Tom had 14 stickers. He gave 4 to his friend. How many stickers are left? _____

c) There are 11 birds on a fence. 3 more join. How many birds now? _____

d) Sam baked 9 cookies and ate 2. How many cookies are left? _____

3 FILL IN THE BLANK

Solve these number sentences. Write the missing number.

a) 15 - 6 = _____

b) 3 + 5 = _____

PART C Apply it

4 WRITE

A shop has 20 green balloons and 13 blue balloons. How many balloons are there in all? Write the number sentence, the answer, and explain which clue words told you to add.

PART D Challenge

5 WRITE

There were 17 apples on a table. 9 apples were picked and put in a basket. Then 3 apples were eaten from the basket. How many apples remain on the table? Show your number sentence and explain your steps.

CHECK YOUR WORK

- ☐ I picked add or subtract using clue words
- ☐ I wrote a number sentence for each problem
- ☐ I checked each answer to make sure it makes sense

HOW DID IT GO? ◯ I can do this on my own ◯ I need a bit more practice ◯ I would like some help

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TEACHING NOTES

- **Question 1:** Quick facts: a strong answer is the correct number written clearly in the blank.
- **Question 2:** Encourage the child to underline the clue words in each sentence before calculating.
- **Question 3:** Check each subtraction by adding the result to the smaller number to see if you get the first number.
- **Question 4:** A strong answer shows the number sentence, the total, and names the clue words used.
- **Question 5:** Look for two steps and write each number sentence so the child can follow their own work.

QUESTION	ANSWER	WHY
Question 1	a) 12 b) 6 c) 10 d) 9	Each item is a simple add or subtract calculation: 7+5=12, 9-3=6, 6+4=10, 10-1=9. Watch for subtracting the smaller number from the larger one.
Question 2	a) 13 b) 10 c) 14 d) 7	Use clue words: 'gets more' and 'join' mean add (8+5=13, 11+3=14); 'gave' and 'ate' mean subtract (14-4=10, 9-2=7). Re-read each story to check.
Question 3	a) 9 b) 8	Compute each number sentence: 15-6=9 and 3+5=8. Check subtraction by adding the result to the subtracted amount.
Question 4	20 + 13 = 33; answer 33	The clue words 'in all' tell you to add the two amounts. Adding 20 and 13 gives 33.
Question 5	17 - 9 - 3 = 5; answer 5	First remove the 9 picked apples from 17, then subtract the 3 eaten: 17-9=8, 8-3=5. Watch for two steps and do them in order.