

Solving Problems Part 2 - Addition and Subtraction

Remember that when you have a word problem to solve, the first step is to decide which information is needed and which is not. The next step is to decide which operation or operations you will need to solve the problem. For some problems, you may need more than one step. You may also need more than one operation.

For example, suppose you have the following problem to solve:

Carlos had \$10 to spend on school supplies. He went to the corner store after school with his friend Josh. Josh had \$15 to spend. Carlos needed a notebook, a pen and some pencils. Here is the price list for school supplies:

Notebooks	\$3
Pens	\$1
Rulers	\$1
Pack of Pencils	\$2
Calculators	\$7

If he buys a notebook, a pen and a pack of pencils, how much money will Carlos have left?

First, decide which information is important.

Carlos has \$10.

He needs a notebook for \$3, a pen for \$1 and a pack of pencils for \$2.

There are two questions to answer. First, how much will the items cost? To answer this part, you need to add.

$$3 + 1 + 2 = 6$$

The items will cost \$6.

Now you can answer the question: How much money will Carlos have left? To answer this part, you need to subtract.

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Carlos has \$10. He will spend \$6.

$$10 - 6 = 4$$

Carlos will have \$4 left.

Now let's add something to the problem. So far, it was not important to know that Josh had \$15. It was also not important to know the price of rulers or calculators.

Now, using the same information, answer this question: Can Josh buy one of each thing on the list?

To solve this, you again need to add. This time, add all of the prices together.

$$3 + 1 + 1 + 2 + 7 = 14$$

One of each item will cost \$14. Josh has \$15, so he can buy one of each thing.

Solving Problems Part 2 - Addition and Subtraction Answers

1. There are 8 computers in the library. Our class goes to the library at 9:15 am each Tuesday. We have to take turns using the computers. There are 18 children in our class. When the first group of children is using computers, how many children will have to wait?

$$18 - 8 = 10$$

Ten children will have to wait.

2. The pet shop had twelve puppies and nine kittens for sale this morning. Six puppies and four kittens were sold today. How many puppies are left for sale?

$$12 - 6 = 6$$

Six puppies were sold today.

3. There are 18 children in the first grade class. Four of them live on Elm Street. There are eight boys in the class. How many girls are there?

$$18 - 8 = 10$$

There are ten girls in the class.

4. There are 16 children at our summer camp for third and fourth graders. There are 9 third graders and 7 fourth graders. There are 4 third grade boys and 4 fourth grade boys. How many girls are there?

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$$16 - 4 - 4 = 8 \quad \text{or}$$

$$4 + 4 = 8$$

$$16 - 8 = 8$$

There are eight girls.

5. I have sixteen cousins. Nine of them are boys. Four of my cousins live in New York and five of them live in Boston. The rest live in Florida. How many of my cousins live in Florida?

$$16 - 4 - 5 = 7 \quad \text{or}$$

$$4 + 5 = 9$$

$$16 - 9 = 7$$

Seven of my cousins live in Florida.

6. My friend is 12 years old. He lives next door. He was born in Texas and lived there for 3 years. He went to two different schools in Texas. He moved to California from Texas and lived there for four years before he move in next door. How long has he lived next door?

$$12 - 3 - 4 = 5 \quad \text{or}$$

$$3 + 4 = 7$$

$$12 - 7 = 5$$

My friend has lived next door for five years.