

STORY PROBLEMS

A **story problem** is a word problem that contains a problem you need to solve by adding, subtracting, multiplying, or dividing in order to figure out the answer.

When solving a story problem, you'll need to:

- Read the problem carefully.
- Figure out the problem you need to solve.
- Look for CLUE words that tell you if you need to add, subtract, divide, or multiply to solve the problem.

Clue words you might find in a story problem that will give you a hint that you need to **add** in order to solve the problem:



Clue words
hint that

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- Check your answer by asking yourself, "Does my answer make sense?"

Example:

Marie had 17 jelly beans. Her brother ate 5 of her jelly beans. How many jelly beans does Marie **have left**?

The clue words – **have left** – tell you that you need to **SUBTRACT** in order to solve the problem.

$$17 \text{ jelly beans} - 5 \text{ jelly beans} = 12 \text{ jelly beans}$$

$$17 - 5 = 12$$

Answer: 12 jelly beans

Another example:

Steve has 11 stickers in his sticker collection. His friend Gavin gave Steve 5 more stickers. How many stickers does Steve now have **in all**?

The clue words – in all – tell you that you need to **ADD** in order to solve the problem.

11 stickers + 5 stickers = 16 stickers

11 + 5 = 16

Answer: 16 stickers



PREVIEW

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