

STORY PROBLEMS

What Are Story Problems?

- Story problems are a bunch of sentences set up to give you information in order to solve a problem.
- Story problems most often give you all the information needed to solve the problem. They may even include information you do not need at all.

How to Solve Story Problems:

- Many times story problems will give you clues to help you decide what type of operation you need to solve the problem. Words like more, all together, left, total, and fewer are some examples of these clues.



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- Be sure to read the story problem carefully. Sometimes the problem may say 'more than' in it, but you need to subtract instead of add.

For example:

Tabitha wants to send cards to all of her friends. She has 30 cards to send and has already sent 17. How many **more** cards does Tabitha need to send?

$$30 - 17 = 13$$

Tabitha needs to send 13 more cards.

In this example, the question mentions more, but you need to find the **difference**.

Here is another example story problem using 'more.'

Brandon has collected 12 baseballs. His friend gives him 5 **more** baseballs for his birthday. How many baseballs does Brandon have now?

$$12 + 5 = 17$$

Brandon now has 17 baseballs.

In this example, more is mentioned in the story. The question is asking for a total; that means you need to **add**.

Try This!

Solve the following story problems using addition or subtraction.

Maria practiced playing her trumpet for 25 minutes yesterday and 34 minutes today. How many minutes did she practice in all?



PREVIEW

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Nicholas found 18 seashells at the beach. He gave 7 of them to his little sister. How many seashells does Nicholas have **left**?
