

MULTI-STEP WORD PROBLEMS

Using Addition & Subtraction in Multi-Step Word Problems

Some word problems require MORE than one step to solve. These are called multi-step word problems.

When reading a word problem you should:

- Think about what the question is asking.
- Make a plan in your head or on paper for how to solve the problem.
- Decide whether you are going to need to add, subtract, multiply, or divide, or if you will need to use a combination of these operations.

- Decide what operation to use to solve the problem.

**PREVIEW**
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Let's Practice

Frank bought a book for \$5.25 and a candy bar for \$0.50. He gave the cashier \$10.00. How much change did he get back?

First, decide what steps we need to take in order to solve the problem.

Step 1: Decide what the question is asking:
It is asking how much change Frank is going to receive back from the \$10.00 he gave the cashier.

Step 2: Next, find out how much Frank is going to spend when buying the book and the candy bar *together*.
So that means you must ADD the costs of the book and the candy bar.

$$\begin{array}{r} \$5.25 \text{ (book)} \\ + \quad \$0.50 \text{ (candy bar)} \\ \hline \$5.75 \end{array}$$

Step 3: Now we know how much his items cost. Next, we need to SUBTRACT the cost of \$5.75 from \$10.00 in order to find how much change Frank is going to receive.

$$\begin{array}{r} \$10.00 \text{ (what Frank gave the cashier)} \\ - \$ 5.75 \text{ (how much Frank spent)} \\ \hline \$ 4.25 \end{array}$$

Frank will receive **\$4.25** change from the cashier.

You Try:

Sarah had 30 cookies. Her brother ate 7 cookies, her dad ate 5 cookies, and her mom ate 3 cookies. How many cookies does Sarah have now?

Step 1:



Step 2:

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If you answered 15 cookies, then you are right!

Here are the answers to the steps if you need them:

Step 1: $7 + 5 + 3 = 15$ cookies were eaten

Step 2: $30 - 15 = 15$ cookies were left