

Addition and Subtraction Word Problems: practice solutions, Grade 2 – download the PDF

Written solutions to the chapter problems. Check each step, then correct yourself.

1 Marbles in a bag



Marbles are added, so we add: $23 + 15 = \square$.

Tens: $20 + 10 = 30$. Ones: $3 + 5 = 8$. So $30 + 8 = 38$.

Sam has 38 marbles now.

2 Cookies on a plate



Cookies leave the plate, so we subtract: $47 - 12 = \square$.

$47 - 10 = 37$, then $37 - 2 = 35$.

There are 35 cookies left.

3 Tulips in the garden



This is a put together problem: Part + Part = Whole. $31 + 24 = \square$.

$30 + 20 = 50$ and $1 + 4 = 5$, so $50 + 5 = 55$.

There are 55 tulips in all.

4 Boys and girls



This is a take apart problem. Whole = 56, one part = 30. We write $30 + \square = 56$, or $56 - 30 = \square$.

$$56 - 30 = 26.$$

There are 26 boys.

5 Two soccer teams



This is a compare problem, so we subtract the smaller number from the larger:

$$42 - 35 = \square.$$

$$35 + 5 = 40 \text{ and } 40 + 2 = 42, \text{ so the difference is } 5 + 2 = 7.$$

The red team scored 7 more points.

6 Add or subtract?



- Add: fish join the group, so the group gets bigger. $18 + 9 = 27$ fish.
- Subtract: crackers are eaten, so some leave. $40 - 15 = 25$ crackers.
- Subtract: we compare two amounts and look for the difference. $27 - 21 = 6$ more books.

7 Fruit stand bar model



The two boxes are the parts, and the question mark is the whole. Whole = $30 + 24$.

$$30 + 20 = 50, \text{ then } 50 + 4 = 54.$$

The stand sold 54 pieces of fruit.

8

Nora's stickers

The change is unknown: $29 + \square = 51$.

Count up: $29 + 1 = 30$, $30 + 20 = 50$, $50 + 1 = 51$. The hops are $1 + 20 + 1 = 22$.

Check: $29 + 22 = 51$. Her friend gave her 22 stickers.

9

The city bus

Equation: $64 - \square = 38$.

Think addition: $38 + \square = 64$. $38 + 2 = 40$, $40 + 24 = 64$, so $\square = 2 + 24 = 26$.

Check: $64 - 26 = 38$. 26 people got off the bus.

10

Ducks on a pond

The start is unknown: $\square + 17 = 45$.

Subtract the change from the result: $45 - 17 = 28$. ($45 - 10 = 35$, $35 - 7 = 28$.)

Check: $28 + 17 = 45$. There were 28 ducks at first.

11

Tom's coins

Equation: $\square - 26 = 39$.

To find the start, add back what was spent: $39 + 26 = 65$. ($39 + 20 = 59$, $59 + 6 = 65$.)

Check: $65 - 26 = 39$. Tom had 65 coins at the start.

12 Library shelf



Whole = 72, known part = 45: $45 + \square = 72$.

$72 - 45 = 27$. Check: $45 + 27 = 72$.

There are 27 fact books.

13 Who has more?



Cara has *more*, so her bar is longer: $18 + 25 = \square$.

$18 + 25 = 43$ ($18 + 20 = 38$, $38 + 5 = 43$).

Cara has 43 stickers.

14 Books we read



a. Cy read the most: 15 books.

b. Compare: $15 - 8 = 7$. Cy read 7 more books than Ben.

c. Put together: $12 + 8 + 15 + 10$. $12 + 8 = 20$, $15 + 10 = 25$, and $20 + 25 = 45$.

They read 45 books in all.

15 Eggs at the farm



Equation: $83 - \square = 47$.

$83 - 47$: take away 40 to get 43, then take away 7 to get 36. So $\square = 36$.

Check: $47 + 36 = 83$. She sold 36 eggs.

16 The pencil box



Step 1: $35 + 28 = 63$. Step 2: $63 - 19 = 44$ ($63 - 20 = 43$, then add 1 back).

There are 44 pencils in the box now.

17 Borrowed library books



Step 1: books borrowed in all: $38 + 27 = 65$.

Step 2: $90 - 65 = 25$.

Check: $65 + 25 = 90$. 25 books are still on the cart.

18 Fewer pages



Dan read fewer, so Eve read more: $37 + 19 = 56$ pages ($37 + 20 = 57$, minus 1).

Together: $37 + 56 = 93$ ($30 + 50 = 80$, $7 + 6 = 13$, and $80 + 13 = 93$).

Eve read 56 pages and they read 93 pages together.

19 Find the mistake



Mia saw “fewer” and “12,” but she added. Jon has *fewer* cards, so his number is smaller than Kim’s.

Correct equation: $40 - 12 = \square$, and $40 - 12 = 28$.

Jon has 28 cards. This makes sense because 28 is less than 40.

20 Write your own story



Sample story: “A bakery had 63 rolls. It sold some rolls. Now 28 rolls are left. How many rolls did it sell?”

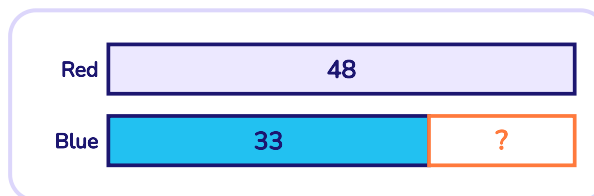
Think addition: $28 + \square = 63$. $28 + 2 = 30$, $30 + 33 = 63$, so $\square = 35$. Check:
 $63 - 35 = 28$.

The bakery sold 35 rolls. (Any story where 63 things are reduced to 28 is correct.)

21 Ribbons



Step 1: the blue ribbon is shorter, so we subtract: $48 - 15 = 33$ centimeters.



Step 2: the green ribbon is longer than the blue one: $33 + 22 = 55$ centimeters.

The green ribbon is 55 centimeters long (about 22 inches).

22 The school bus



Step 1: $26 + 18 = 44$. Step 2: $44 + 9 = 53$. Step 3: $53 - 14 = 39$.

Equation in one line: $26 + 18 + 9 - 14 = n$, so $n = 39$.

There are 39 people on the bus now.



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