

Addition and Subtraction Word Problems: practice solutions, Grade 1 – download the PDF

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

1 Ducks on a pond



More ducks join, so we add: $7 + 6 = 13$.

There are 13 ducks on the pond.

2 Popped balloons



Some balloons go away, so we subtract: $15 - 8 = 7$.

Maya has 7 balloons left.

3 Red and blue marbles



Two groups are put together: $9 + 4 = 13$.

There are 13 marbles in the bag.

4 Stickers on a page



The total is 12 and one part is 5, so we take apart: $12 - 5 = 7$.

Check: $5 + 7 = 12$. There are 7 stickers in the box.

5 True or false?



a. True: $6 + 7 = 13$.

b. False: $15 - 9 = 6$, not 7. Check: $6 + 9 = 15$.

6 Seashells



We compare the two amounts: $11 - 8 = 3$.

Mia found 3 more seashells than Leo. Check: $8 + 3 = 11$.

7 Match the equation



Birds go away, so the equation is $10 - 4 = 6$.

There are 6 birds left.

8 Apples in a bowl



The change is unknown: $6 + ? = 14$.

$14 - 6 = 8$. Check: $6 + 8 = 14$. Dad put in 8 apples.

9 Frogs on a log



The start is unknown: $? + 5 = 12$.

$12 - 5 = 7$. Check: $7 + 5 = 12$. There were 7 frogs at first.

10 Cookies



The start is unknown: $? - 6 = 9$.

To find the start we add back what was taken: $9 + 6 = 15$. Check: $15 - 6 = 9$. There were 15 cookies.

11 Boys and girls



We take apart the total: $17 - 9 = 8$.

Check: $9 + 8 = 17$. There are 8 boys.

12 Fewer stickers



"Fewer" means a smaller amount: $16 - 7 = 9$.

Ava has 9 stickers.

13 Crayon box



There is no pair that makes 10, so we add in order: $5 + 7 = 12$, then $12 + 4 = 16$.

There are 16 crayons.

14 Complete the bar model



The missing part is $18 - 11 = 7$.

Equations: $11 + 7 = 18$ and $18 - 11 = 7$.

15 Add or subtract?

- a. More arrive: $9 + 8 = 17$ cats.
- b. Some go away: $18 - 9 = 9$ fish are left.
- c. Groups are put together: $7 + 11 = 18$ children.

16 Find the missing number

- a. $13 - 5 = 8$, so $13 = 5 + 8$.
- b. The start is $9 + 8 = 17$, so $9 = 17 - 8$.
- c. $14 - 6 = 8$, so $14 - 8 = 6$.
- d. $11 - 4 = 7$, so $7 + 4 = 11$.

17 Pencils

Tom has the bigger amount, and the gap is 4. So Nia has $9 - 4 = 5$ pencils.

Check: $5 + 4 = 9$.

18 Make ten first

- a. $8 + 2 = 10$, then $10 + 6 = 16$.
- b. $7 + 3 = 10$, then $10 + 5 = 15$.

19 Birds on a wire

Step 1: $9 + 5 = 14$ birds.

Step 2: $14 - 7 = 7$ birds.

There are 7 birds on the wire now.

20

Find the mistake

People got off, so the number gets smaller. Max added, but he should subtract.

Right equation: $14 - 6 = 8$. There are 8 people on the bus.

21

Compare with a model

The gap is $16 - 11 = 5$. Raj has 5 fewer stickers.

Sample story: Nora has 8 toy cars. She gets 7 more. Now she has $8 + 7 = 15$ toy cars.

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