

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.



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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 jelly beans – 5 jelly beans = 12 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.

$$11 \text{ stickers} + 5 \text{ stickers} = 16 \text{ stickers}$$

$$11 + 5 = 16$$

Answer: 16 stickers



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