

Keywords in Math Word Problems

(Look for these keywords in math problems to tell you which operation(s) to do)

Add (+)

Sum
Total
In all
Increase/Increased
by
And
Together
Altogether
Both

More than
Added to
Gain
Combined
Additional
Plus
Extra
Earn/Earned
Perimeter

Subtract (-)

Difference
Left
Change
How much more
How many are left
How many more
Decrease
Remainder
Remain
Less/Loss
More than

Fewer than
Less than
Minus
Reduce
Take away
Spend/Spent
Words ending in -er:
fewer, shorter, etc.

Multiply (x)

Product
Factor
Of* (Percentages,
decimals, or fractions)
Times
By
As much
Multiplied
Twice
Triple

Fraction of
Percent of
Each
Every
At this rate
Groups/Groups of
Per
Area

Divide (÷)

Quotient
Share/Shared
Divide
Into
Equally
Each
Split
Cut
Groups/Groups of
How many times
Average

Pieces
Ratio
Distribute
Part of
Break up
Evenly
Goes into
Per
Half
Third
Quarter

Estimate = Round = About = Approximate = Nearest

Steps to Solve Any Word Problem

1. READ the problem all the way through.

The students in Mrs. White's class are going on a field trip to the zoo. Including the teachers, there are 104 students who will be going on the field trip. If each bus holds 40 students, how many buses will they need to get there?

2. REREAD the problem, STOP at punctuation, and HIGHLIGHT important information (numbers, names, etc.)

The students in Mrs. White's class are going on a field trip to the zoo. (STOP) Including the teachers, (STOP) there are 104 people who will be going on the field trip. (STOP) If each bus holds 40 people, how many buses will they need to get there? (STOP)

3. LOOK for keywords and circle them.

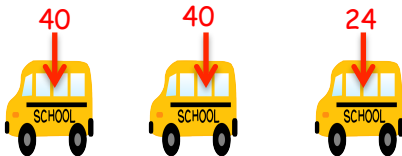
The students in Mrs. White's class are going on a field trip to the zoo. (STOP) Including the teachers, (STOP) there are 104 people who will be going on the field trip. (STOP) If each bus holds 40 people, how many buses will they need to get there? (STOP)

divide

4. PLAN and SOLVE.

- Choose a strategy that may help to solve, such as drawing a picture or writing a number sentence

Draw a Picture



Write a Number Sentence

$$40 \times ? = 104$$

or

The keyword 'each' clued me to divide

$$104 \div 40 = ?$$

The solution or answer is 3 buses.

Math Problem Solving Strategies

Write a number sentence
Draw a picture
Look for a pattern
Make an organized list
Create a chart, table, or graph
Work backwards
Guess & check

math problem solving strategies

strategies

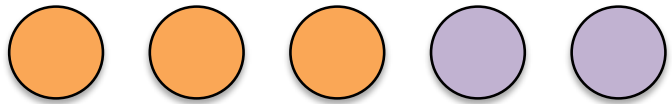
examples

Write a number sentence

$$342 - 246 =$$

$$63 \text{ divided by } ? = 9$$

draw a picture



Probability of choosing purple?

look for a pattern

a) 1, 10, 100, _____, _____

b) 1, 4, 9, _____, _____



make an organized list

Black pants, red shirt
 Black pants, blue shirt
 Khaki pants, red shirt
 Khaki pants, blue shirt

create a chart, table, or graph

<u>Day</u>	<u>Money Earned</u>
Monday	5.00
Tuesday	10.00

guess & check

I think the number 8 might work, let me try it!
 If it doesn't work, I'll try 9.

Work backwards

Start at the end of the problem, and work



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Thanks again! Enjoy!

~ Stephanie