

How To Solve Math Story Problems

1. Underline the question
2. Circle the key words
3. Will you +, -, x, or ?
4. Write down the math problem (such as $56-14=?$)
5. Compute the answer
6. Be sure to label the answer for full credit
7. Check your work

MATH KEY WORD CHART

ADD (+)

Sum

in all
altogether
total
bought
join
both
how many

SUBTRACT (-)

Difference

how many more
how many fewer
how much less
how much taller
how much shorter
how many left
how many are not
how many sold

MULTIPLY (x)

Product

times
in all/times
altogether/eachshared
times as many

DIVIDE (÷)

Quotient

evenly
each

MATH STORY PROBLEM EXAMPLE

You and your friend share equally the cost of popcorn and juice. The popcorn costs 50 cents and the juice costs 38 cents. How much do you each pay?

1. Underline the question
2. Circle key words
 - ❖ Share equally
 - ❖ Each
 - ❖ You and your friend
3. Will you +, -, x, or ? (Look at key word chart)
 - ❖ Share =
 - ❖ Each =
 - ❖ You and your friend (both) =
4. Write down the math problem

$$\begin{array}{r} .50 \\ .38 \\ \hline .88 \end{array} \quad .88 \div 2 = .44$$

5. Compute the answer (See above)
6. Be sure to label your answer
 - ❖ 44 cents each