

Understanding Maths Words

Addition & Subtraction Vocabulary

Maths vocabulary • Question comprehension • Problem-solving

UK & US
Editions
Included

UNDERSTANDING MATHS WORDS
Addition & Subtraction Vocabulary

Learn what the words mean, recognise them in questions and use them with confidence.

LEARN • RECOGNISE • APPLY • EXPLAIN

sum	total
difference	altogether
fewer	more than
less than	equal

ADDITION SUBTRACTION COMPARISON EQUALITY

Maths Vocabulary • Word Problems • Reasoning
Parent & Educator Guidance • Teaching Pages • Practice • Answer Key

40 pages

Teach • Practise • Apply • Review • Answer Keys

What's Included

A look inside this 40-page resource

- Teaching Pages
- Practice Activities
- Word-Problem Language
- Equality & Comparison Vocabulary
- Mixed Review
- Quick Reference Pages
- Answer Keys
- UK & US English Editions Included

LEARN

What Does "Sum" Mean?

The sum is the result we get after adding numbers.

DEFINITION
SUM

The sum is the result when two or more numbers are added. "Sum" names the answer, not the action of adding.

$8 + 5 = 13$

8
5
13

LOOK FOR THESE CLUES

These phrases can give useful clues. Read the whole question before you decide what to do.

find the sum Find the result of adding.	sum of Add the named numbers.	add Combine the numbers.
plus Shows addition.	total May ask for the whole amount.	altogether May ask for a combined amount.

SEE IT IN A QUESTION

Find the sum of 6 and 7.

Important maths word: **sum** Important numbers: **6 and 7**

$6 + 7 = 13$ The sum of 6 and 7 is 13.

TRY IT

What is the sum of 9 and 4?

$9 + 4 =$

Write your answer.

REMEMBER

The sum is the result of addition. First add the numbers; then name the result as the sum.

KS1 PATH Understanding Maths Words

LEARN

What Does "Plus" Mean?

Plus is a word used with addition, and the plus sign is +.

DEFINITION
PLUS

Plus tells us that one amount is being added to another. The symbol + is called the plus sign.

$4 + 6 = 10$

4
6
10

LOOK FOR THESE CLUES

These phrases can give useful clues. Read the whole question before you decide what to do.

plus Shows addition.	+ The plus sign.	add Combine amounts.
sum Result of adding.	total Whole combined amount.	altogether Amounts combined.

SEE IT IN A QUESTION

What is 7 plus 5?

Important maths word: **plus** Important numbers: **7 and 5**

$7 + 5 = 12$ Seven plus five equals twelve.

LEARN

What Does "Less" Mean?

Less often compares amounts, values or measurements.

DEFINITION
LESS

Less describes a smaller amount, value or measurement. In comparison questions, subtraction can help us find how much less.

$9 - 7 = 2$

9
7
2

LOOK FOR THESE CLUES

These phrases can give useful clues. Read the whole question before you decide what to do.

less A smaller amount or value.	less than Compare two values.	how much less? Find the gap.
smaller amount One quantity is lower.	lower value Compare the values.	2 less A stated amount below another.

SEE IT IN A QUESTION

How much less is the 7 cm ribbon than the 9 cm ribbon?

Important maths word: **less** Important numbers: **9 and 7**

$9 - 7 = 2$ The 7 cm ribbon is 2 cm less than the 9 cm ribbon.

TRY IT

How much less is the 5 cm ribbon than the 8 cm ribbon?

REFERENCE

Subtraction & Comparison Words Overview

Meet the key words used when amounts are removed, compared or described as greater or smaller.

WORDS TO KNOW

SUBTRACT remove an amount; find what remains or compare quantities	MINUS a word used in subtraction; - is the minus sign
TAKE AWAY one subtractor: situation where an amount is removed	DIFFERENCE how far apart two amounts are
FEWER a smaller number of countable things	LESS a smaller amount or quantity
LESS THAN lower in amount or value than another quantity	MORE THAN greater in amount or value than another quantity

PRACTISE

Same Word, Different Question

Read the two rows at the top. For each numbered sentence, decide whether more or less helps FIND A NEW VALUE or DESCRIBES A COMPARISON. Write A or B in the small box.

A - FIND A NEW VALUE start with a value, then add or subtract the stated amount	B - DESCRIBE A COMPARISON two known values are compared with each other
11 is more than 8 is 13	<input type="text"/>
21 is more than 5	<input type="text"/>
10 is less than 12 is 5	<input type="text"/>
47 is less than 18	<input type="text"/>
12 more than 14 is 15	<input type="text"/>
10 is 6 less than 15	<input type="text"/>

KS1 PATH Understanding Maths Words

Teach the Meaning First

What Does "Sum" Mean?

What Does "Difference" Mean?

Understanding the Equals Sign

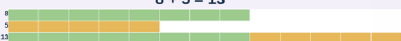
LEARN

What Does "Sum" Mean?

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DEFINITION
SUM

The sum is the result when two or more numbers are added. "Sum" names the answer, not the action of adding.

$$8 + 5 = 13$$


LOOK FOR THESE CLUES

These phrases can give useful clues. Read the whole question before you decide what to do.

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plus Shows addition.	total May ask for the whole amount.	altogether May ask for a combined amount.

SEE IT IN A QUESTION

Find the sum of 6 and 7.

Important maths word: **sum** Important numbers: **6 and 7**

$$6 + 7 = 13$$
 The sum of 6 and 7 is 13.

TRY IT

What is the sum of 9 and 4?

$$9 + 4 = \square$$

Write your answer.

REMEMBER

The sum is the result of addition. First add the numbers; then name the result as the sum.

KOPI PATH Understanding Maths Words

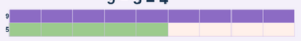
LEARN

What Does "Difference" Mean?

We use difference when we compare two amounts.

DEFINITION
DIFFERENCE

The difference tells us how far apart two amounts are. We can often find it by subtracting the smaller number from the larger number.

$$9 - 5 = 4$$


LOOK FOR THESE CLUES

These phrases can give useful clues. Read the whole question before you decide what to do.

find the difference Compare two amounts.	what is the difference? Find the gap.	how many more? Find the extra amount.
how many fewer? Compare the smaller amount.	how much more? Compare amounts or measures.	how far apart? Find the gap between them.

SEE IT IN A QUESTION

Eva has 9 stickers. Noah has 5 stickers. What is the difference between the numbers of stickers they have?

Important maths word: **difference** Important numbers: **9 and 5**

$$9 - 5 = 4$$
 The difference is 4 stickers.

TRY IT

Luca has 12 counters. Mia has 8 counters. What is the difference?

$$12 - 8 = \square$$

Write your answer.

REMEMBER

Difference means comparing two amounts to find how far apart they are. You can often subtract to find the difference.

KOPI PATH Understanding Maths Words

LEARN

Understanding the Equals Sign

The equals sign is a relationship symbol: both sides must have the same value.

= MEANS "HAS THE SAME VALUE AS"

The equals sign does not simply mean "write the answer now". It tells us that the value on the left is the same as the value on the right.

$$5 + 3 = 8$$
$$8 = 5 + 3$$
$$4 + 4 = 6 + 2$$

NOTICE WHAT STAYS TRUE

$7 = 7$ same value on both sides	$9 = 4 + 5$ the calculation can appear on the right	$3 + 3 = 2 + 4$ both expressions are worth 6
$10 - 2 = 8$ subtraction can make an equal statement	$5 + 0 = 5$ zero can appear in an equality	$6 \neq 7$ not equal means the values differ

A USEFUL QUESTION

Instead of asking "What comes after the equals sign?", ask:
"What must have the same value on both sides?"

COMMON MISCONCEPTION

The equals sign does not mean "the answer comes next". For example, $8 = 5 + 3$ is just as valid as $5 + 3 = 8$.

REMEMBER

The equals sign connects two values that are the same. It can appear in different positions in a true number sentence.

KOPI PATH Understanding Maths Words

Explicit teaching pages help children understand the language of maths questions, not just memorise keyword tricks.

Practise & Apply

PRACTISE

Spot the Important Maths

For each numbered question, copy the important maths word or phrase only the numbers needed into the right box. Do not solve the problem yet.

1) Zara has 13 shells. Ben has 8 shells. What is the difference between their amounts?

MATHS WORD / PHRASE

2) There are 9 pencils in one pot and 6 in another. How many pencils are there altogether?

MATHS WORD / PHRASE

Spot Vocabulary in Questions

Read each question. Write the important maths word or phrase that helps you understand the relationship in the question. Then write the important numbers.

READ • THINK • IDENTIFY

1) What is the sum of 7 and 6?

IMPORTANT MATHS WORD

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

PRACTISE

Match the Maths Word to Its Meaning

Read the meanings in the Meaning Bank. For each maths word, write the matching letter (A-H) in the small box. Use each letter once.

MEANING BANK

A the gap between two amounts	B has the same value as
C the result of adding	D a smaller number of countable things
E the whole combined amount	F addition word and name of the + sign
G subtraction word and name of the - sign	H all the groups considered together

WRITE THE MATCHING LETTER

sum	difference
equal	total
fewer	plus
minus	altogether

PRACTISE

Solve

Read each question. Write the important maths word or phrase that helps you understand the relationship in the question. Then write the important numbers.

1) Zara has 13 shells. Ben has 8 shells. What is the difference between their amounts?

MATHS WORD / PHRASE

2) There are 9 pencils in one pot and 6 in another. How many pencils are there altogether?

MATHS WORD / PHRASE

PRACTISE

Explain Your Thinking

Answer each question in the large box. Use maths words to explain your thinking.

1) What does difference mean? Explain it without simply saying 'the gap'.

2) How are sum and total related? Give an example to support your answer.

3) Why is $8 = 5 + 3$ a true number sentence even though the 8 is not 5 plus 3?

4) A child says, "If I see altogether, I should always add." Explain why this is not always true.

There can be more than one good explanation. A strong explanation is better than a weak one.

PRACTISE

Use Addition Language

Read each clue and write the correct maths word in the box.

WORD BANK

base • total • add • sum • plus • altogether

READ THE CLUE

1) a word used with the + sign

2) a word used with the + sign

3) a word used with the + sign

4) combine two or more amounts

5) a word used with the + sign

6) an amount becomes greater

EXPLAIN ONE

Write a sentence explaining how it is different from another addition word.

Recognise • Match • Identify • Solve • Explain