

MATH TERMS for WORD PROBLEMS

A word problem has the **information** necessary to answer the **question**.
Words in the **question** can help you decide what **operation** to use to answer the **question**.

MATH OPERATIONS

+ add

x multiply

÷ divide

– subtract

add

when these words are in the **QUESTION**.
ADD when the amounts you are totaling are **NOT ALL THE SAME**.

- + total
- + in all
- + all together
- + combined
- + **sum**
- + original amount

+ Add

when **increase** and **more** are in the **problem**.

multiply

when these words are in the **QUESTION**.
MULTIPLY when the amounts you are totaling are **ALL THE SAME**.

- X total
- X **product**
- X **fraction OF** a number ($\frac{1}{2} \times 10$)
- X **% OF** a number ($10\% \times 20$)

MULTIPLICATION EXPRESSIONS

$$6 \times 2 = 12$$

$$6 \cdot 2 = 12$$

$$(6) 2 = 12$$

$$6 (2) = 12$$

subtract

when these words are in the **QUESTION**.

- What is the **difference**?
- What is the **decrease**?
- What is the **increase**?
- How much is **cut off**?
- What is the **remainder**?
- How much is **left**?
- How **much more**?
- How **many more**?
- What is the **take home** salary?
- What is the **net** income?
- How much **change**?
- How much **taller**?
- How much **bigger**?
- How many are **not** here?
- Find the **sale price**.

SUBTRACTION EXPRESSIONS

In subtraction expressions,
ALWAYS place the **LARGER** number
FIRST or on **TOP**.

CORRECT

$$\begin{array}{r} 8 \\ - 5 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$8 - 7$$

INCORRECT

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ - 9 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$7 - 8$$

divide

when these words are in the **QUESTION**.

- ÷ cut into
- ÷ divide into
- ÷ split into
- ÷ average
- ÷ per
- ÷ each
- ÷ one
- ÷ share
- ÷ **quotient**

DIVISION EXPRESSIONS

In division expressions,
ALWAYS place the **FIRST** or **TOP** number
IN THE DIVISION BOX.

$$20 \div 4$$

$$10 / 2$$

$$\frac{1}{2}$$

$$4 \overline{) 20}$$

$$2 \overline{) 10}$$

$$2 \overline{) 1}$$