

Getting Started

You learned how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide a long time ago. You can find the sum of $146 + 283$ or the product of 25×85 . But in everyday life, math problems are often presented in words, not numbers and symbols. To solve everyday problems, you need to choose the right operation, use the right numbers, and solve the problem.

1. **What's the Operation?** Which operation would you use to solve each problem below? Draw a line from the problem to the correct operation.

- a. What is the difference between your weight and your best friend's weight? Addition
- b. You earn money by mowing your neighbor's lawn each week. How much would you earn at the end of the summer? Subtraction
- c. Three sisters go out for ice cream. If they split the cost equally, how much will each sister pay? Multiplication
- d. Sandy has a certain number of notebooks for each class. How many notebooks does she have in all? Division

2. **Two-Minute Brainstorm:** There are many different words and phrases that describe addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. List as many as you can in two minutes. Write your answers in the chart below.

Math Operation Words

Addition	Subtraction	Multiplication	Division

3. **You're the Writer!** On a separate sheet of paper, write a real-life problem that uses addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division to solve. Challenge one of your classmates to solve the problem.

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Understanding

Knowing which operation to use is one challenge in solving everyday problems. Suppose you want to know the total cost of 12 sandwiches that each cost \$5. You can only solve the problem if you know whether you should add, subtract, multiply, or divide.

Some words give hints about which operation you should use to solve a problem. Some problems in your math assignments may include such words. Or you may find yourself using some of these words when you are trying to solve an everyday problem.

The following words might hint at addition:

total, sum, combined, together, increased, more, entire

The following words might hint at subtraction:

difference, decreased, reduced, less, fewer, left

The following words might hint at multiplication:

times, multiplied, in all, total

The following words might hint at division:

for each, per, apiece

What other words might give you hints about which operation you should use to solve a problem?

Note: Never rely only on “word hints” to solve a problem. Think through the problem to determine how to solve it.

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Connecting

Solve each problem.

1. Eli receives \$7 for his allowance every week. How much would he receive in all after 27 weeks?

2. Kelly bought a magazine for \$3.59 and a bottle of water for \$1.49. What was her total bill?

3. Kyle wanted to tile a floor in his house. He knew that 27 tiles fit along the width of the floor and 53 tiles fit along the length of the floor. How many tiles did Kyle need in all?

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4. A 50-gallon fish tank can hold 40 fish. If a pet store orders 960 fish, how many fish tanks will the store need?

5. A parade route goes 0.8 miles down First Street, 2.3 miles down Main Street, and then 0.3 miles down Fulton Street. What is the length of the entire parade route?

6. Tina spent a total of \$120 on concert tickets for her and her friends. Each ticket cost \$8. How many tickets did Tina buy?

7. The temperature at 6:00 p.m. was 50°F. By midnight, the temperature dropped by 17°. What was the temperature at midnight?

8. Zoe collects bottle caps and old bottles. She has 23 bottle caps. She has 7 times as many bottles as bottle caps. How many bottles does she have?

9. Joshua has \$5.43 in his pocket. He owes his brother \$2.50. After he pays his brother back, how much money will Joshua have left?

10. An elevator can hold 750 pounds of weight. Eight people want to go on the elevator. They weigh: 87, 92, 53, 112, 150, 189, 75, and 99 pounds. Can the elevator hold them?

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