

Adding and Subtracting Lengths

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 24

Q Quick Review

We can **add** lengths to find a total, and **subtract** lengths to find what is left or how much longer. If you put two pieces of string end to end, you **add** their lengths. If you **cut off** part of a ribbon, you **subtract** to find what is left. Word clues help: *in all*, *altogether*, and *total* mean add; *left*, *cut off*, and *how much longer* mean subtract. Always keep the unit in your answer.

◇ **Example:** A ribbon is 25 cm. You cut off 9 cm. How long is it now?

⇒ The words “cut off” tell us to subtract. We start with the whole ribbon, which is 25 cm. Then we take away the 9 cm that was cut off: $25 - 9 = 16$. The ribbon that is left is 16 cm long.

Answer: 16 cm

PRACTICE

Add or subtract the lengths. Keep the unit in your answer.

- A ribbon is 25 cm. You cut off 9 cm. How long is it now? _____
- One string is 14 in and another is 13 in. What is the total length? _____
- A rope is 30 ft. You use 12 ft. How much rope is left? _____
- Two ribbons are 16 cm and 8 cm. What is the total length? _____
- A wire is 40 cm. You cut off 15 cm. How much is left? _____
- A tape piece is 22 in and another is 19 in. What is the total? _____
- A hose is 50 ft. You add a 20 ft hose. How long is it now? _____
- A pencil is 17 cm. It breaks and loses 6 cm. How long is it now? _____
- Two paths are 35 ft and 25 ft. What is the total length? _____
- A string is 48 cm. You cut off 23 cm. How much is left? _____
- A board is 18 in long. You join a 24 in board. What is the total? _____
- A trail is 60 ft. You walk 45 ft. How much trail is left? _____
- Three sticks are 5 cm, 7 cm, and 4 cm. What is the total length? _____
- A ribbon is 33 in. You cut off 14 in. How long is it now? _____
- Two ropes are 26 ft and 26 ft. What is the total length? _____
- A wire is 55 cm. You use 30 cm. How much wire is left? _____
- One straw is 9 cm and another is 13 cm. What is the total length? _____
- A fence is 70 ft. A storm knocks down 25 ft. How much is still standing? _____
- Three ribbons are 10 in, 10 in, and 8 in. What is the total length? _____
- A string is 45 cm. You add a 35 cm piece. How long is it now? _____

◆ Word Problems

- Dana has a string that is 28 centimeters long. She ties on another string that is 19 centimeters long. How long is the string now? _____
- A roll of tape is 60 inches long. Ben uses 25 inches to wrap a gift. How much tape is left on the roll? _____
- Maria builds a track with two pieces. One piece is 34 feet long and the other is 22 feet long. How long is the whole track? _____
- A ribbon is 50 centimeters long. Kim cuts off 18 centimeters for a bow. How long is the ribbon now? _____



Answer Keys

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="text" value="16cm"/> | 13. <input type="text" value="16cm"/> |
| 2. <input type="text" value="27in"/> | 14. <input type="text" value="19in"/> |
| 3. <input type="text" value="18ft"/> | 15. <input type="text" value="52ft"/> |
| 4. <input type="text" value="24cm"/> | 16. <input type="text" value="25cm"/> |
| 5. <input type="text" value="25cm"/> | 17. <input type="text" value="22cm"/> |
| 6. <input type="text" value="41in"/> | 18. <input type="text" value="45ft"/> |
| 7. <input type="text" value="70ft"/> | 19. <input type="text" value="28in"/> |
| 8. <input type="text" value="11cm"/> | 20. <input type="text" value="80cm"/> |
| 9. <input type="text" value="60ft"/> | 21. <input type="text" value="47 centimeters"/> |
| 10. <input type="text" value="25cm"/> | 22. <input type="text" value="35 inches"/> |
| 11. <input type="text" value="42in"/> | 23. <input type="text" value="56 feet"/> |
| 12. <input type="text" value="15ft"/> | 24. <input type="text" value="32 centimeters"/> |

Step-by-Step Explanations

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| <p>1. "Cut off" means subtract: $25 - 9 = 16$ cm.</p> <p>2. Add the two strings: $14 + 13 = 27$ inches.</p> <p>3. Subtract what is used: $30 - 12 = 18$ feet.</p> <p>4. Add the two ribbons: $16 + 8 = 24$ cm.</p> <p>5. "Cut off" means subtract: $40 - 15 = 25$ cm.</p> <p>6. Add the two pieces: $22 + 19 = 41$ inches.</p> <p>7. Add the hoses end to end: $50 + 20 = 70$ feet.</p> <p>8. Losing a piece means subtract: $17 - 6 = 11$ cm.</p> <p>9. Add the two paths: $35 + 25 = 60$ feet.</p> <p>10. "Cut off" means subtract: $48 - 23 = 25$ cm.</p> <p>11. Add the two boards: $18 + 24 = 42$ inches.</p> <p>12. Subtract what is walked: $60 - 45 = 15$ feet.</p> | <p>13. Add all three sticks: $5 + 7 + 4 = 16$ cm.</p> <p>14. "Cut off" means subtract: $33 - 14 = 19$ inches.</p> <p>15. Add the two ropes: $26 + 26 = 52$ feet.</p> <p>16. Subtract what is used: $55 - 30 = 25$ cm.</p> <p>17. Add the two straws: $9 + 13 = 22$ cm.</p> <p>18. Subtract the part knocked down: $70 - 25 = 45$ feet.</p> <p>19. Add all three ribbons: $10 + 10 + 8 = 28$ inches.</p> <p>20. Add the two pieces: $45 + 35 = 80$ cm.</p> <p>21. Tying strings together means we add their lengths: $28 + 19 = 47$ centimeters.</p> <p>22. Using tape means we subtract: $60 - 25 = 35$ inches are left.</p> <p>23. Join the two track pieces by adding: $34 + 22 = 56$ feet.</p> <p>24. Cutting off a piece means we subtract: $50 - 18 = 32$ centimeters are left.</p> |
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