

# 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"/> |

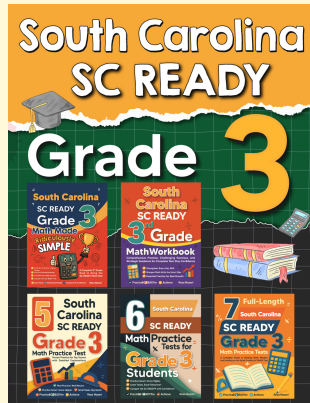
### Step-by-Step Explanations

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