

Finding the Unknown Number

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 24

Q Quick Review

Sometimes an equation has a **missing number**, shown as a blank like $7 + \underline{\quad} = 12$. Your job is to find the number that makes the equation **true**. One great way is to use the opposite operation. If a number is being **added**, you can **subtract** to find the blank. If a number is being **subtracted**, you can **add** to find it. You can also **count up** or **count back** until both sides are equal. Always check by putting your answer back into the equation.

◊ **Example:** Find the missing number: $8 + \underline{\quad} = 15$.

⇒ We need a number that, added to 8, gives 15. Adding and subtracting are opposites, so we can subtract to find the blank: $15 - 8 = 7$. Let's check: $8 + 7 = 15$. It works, so the missing number is 7.

Answer: 7

PRACTICE

Find the missing number that makes each equation true.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. $6 + \underline{\quad} = 14$ | _____ | 11. $8 + \underline{\quad} = 20$ | _____ |
| 2. $\underline{\quad} + 5 = 13$ | _____ | 12. $\underline{\quad} - 6 = 12$ | _____ |
| 3. $9 + \underline{\quad} = 17$ | _____ | 13. $\underline{\quad} + 3 = 10$ | _____ |
| 4. $\underline{\quad} - 5 = 9$ | _____ | 14. $18 - \underline{\quad} = 9$ | _____ |
| 5. $\underline{\quad} + 7 = 12$ | _____ | 15. $7 + \underline{\quad} = 19$ | _____ |
| 6. $15 - \underline{\quad} = 6$ | _____ | 16. $\underline{\quad} - 4 = 13$ | _____ |
| 7. $4 + \underline{\quad} = 11$ | _____ | 17. $\underline{\quad} + 6 = 14$ | _____ |
| 8. $\underline{\quad} - 8 = 7$ | _____ | 18. $16 - \underline{\quad} = 7$ | _____ |
| 9. $\underline{\quad} + 9 = 16$ | _____ | 19. $5 + \underline{\quad} = 13$ | _____ |
| 10. $13 - \underline{\quad} = 5$ | _____ | 20. $\underline{\quad} - 9 = 11$ | _____ |

◆ Word Problems

21. Lucas had some toy cars. After he got 6 more cars, he had 14 cars in all. This can be written as $\underline{\quad} + 6 = 14$. How many cars did Lucas start with? _____
22. There were 12 apples in a bowl. After some apples were eaten, 5 apples were left. This can be written as $12 - \underline{\quad} = 5$. How many apples were eaten? _____
23. Sofia read 9 pages in the morning and some more pages at night. In all she read 16 pages. This can be written as $9 + \underline{\quad} = 16$. How many pages did she read at night? _____
24. A box held some markers. After 8 markers were taken out, 13 markers were still in the box. This can be written as $\underline{\quad} - 8 = 13$. How many markers were in the box at first? _____



Answer Keys

- | | |
|--------|----------------|
| 1. 8 | 13. 7 |
| 2. 8 | 14. 9 |
| 3. 8 | 15. 12 |
| 4. 14 | 16. 17 |
| 5. 5 | 17. 8 |
| 6. 9 | 18. 9 |
| 7. 7 | 19. 8 |
| 8. 15 | 20. 20 |
| 9. 7 | 21. 8 cars |
| 10. 8 | 22. 7 apples |
| 11. 12 | 23. 7 pages |
| 12. 18 | 24. 21 markers |

Step-by-Step Explanations

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Subtract to find the blank: $14 - 6 = 8$. | 14. The blank is the part taken away: $18 - 9 = 9$. |
| 2. Subtract to find the blank: $13 - 5 = 8$. | 15. Subtract to find the blank: $19 - 7 = 12$. |
| 3. Subtract to find the blank: $17 - 9 = 8$. | 16. To undo subtracting 4, add it back: $13 + 4 = 17$. |
| 4. To undo subtracting 5, add it back: $9 + 5 = 14$. | 17. Subtract to find the blank: $14 - 6 = 8$. |
| 5. Subtract to find the blank: $12 - 7 = 5$. | 18. The blank is the part taken away: $16 - 7 = 9$. |
| 6. The blank is the part taken away: $15 - 6 = 9$. | 19. Subtract to find the blank: $13 - 5 = 8$. |
| 7. Subtract to find the blank: $11 - 4 = 7$. | 20. To undo subtracting 9, add it back: $11 + 9 = 20$. |
| 8. To undo subtracting 8, add it back: $7 + 8 = 15$. | 21. To find the missing start number, subtract: $14 - 6 = 8$. Lucas started with 8 cars. |
| 9. Subtract to find the blank: $16 - 9 = 7$. | 22. The missing number is the part taken away: $12 - 5 = 7$. So 7 apples were eaten. |
| 10. The blank is the part taken away: $13 - 5 = 8$. | 23. To find the missing part, subtract: $16 - 9 = 7$. Sofia read 7 pages at night. |
| 11. Subtract to find the blank: $20 - 8 = 12$. | 24. To undo taking away 8, add it back: $13 + 8 = 21$. There were 21 markers in the box at first. |
| 12. To undo subtracting 6, add it back: $12 + 6 = 18$. | |
| 13. Subtract to find the blank: $10 - 3 = 7$. | |



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