

Two-Step Word Problems

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 24

Q Quick Review

Some word problems need **two steps** to solve. That means you do one operation, find an in-between answer, and then use that answer in a second operation. The trick is to take the story **one part at a time**. First ask, "What happens first?" and solve that part. Then ask, "What happens next?" and use your first answer. Adding and subtracting can both appear in the same problem. Work slowly and keep track of your in-between number so you do not lose it.

◇ **Example:** Owen had 10 stickers. He bought 6 more, then gave 4 to his sister. How many stickers does he have now?
 ⇒ Let's take it one step at a time. First, Owen buys more stickers, so we add: $10 + 6 = 16$ stickers. That is our in-between answer. Next, he gives 4 away, so we subtract from 16: $16 - 4 = 12$. Owen has 12 stickers now.

Answer: 12 stickers

PRACTICE

Read each word problem and solve it using two steps.

1. Mia had 7 pens, got 5 more, then lost 3. How many now? _____
2. Sam had 20 grapes, ate 8, then ate 4 more. How many left? _____
3. Ava had 6 books, got 9 more, then read 5. How many left to read? _____
4. Leo had 15 marbles, lost 6, then won 7. How many now? _____
5. 9 kids were playing. 8 joined, then 5 went home. How many now? _____
6. Maya had 12 apples, ate 4, then picked 9 more. How many now? _____
7. A jar had 18 candies. Ben ate 5, then ate 6 more. How many left? _____
8. Lily had 10 shells, found 8, then gave away 9. How many left? _____
9. Tom had 14 cards, got 6 more, then traded 7 away. How many now? _____
10. 16 birds sat in a tree. 9 flew off, then 4 came back. How many now? _____
11. Zoe had 8 stickers, got 8 more, then used 5. How many left? _____
12. A box had 20 blocks. Eli took 7, then put back 3. How many in box? _____
13. Nina baked 13 cookies, made 7 more, then ate 6. How many left? _____
14. Max had 17 crayons, lost 9, then found 5. How many now? _____
15. Kai had 11 coins, earned 9, then spent 8. How many now? _____
16. 10 frogs sat by a pond. 5 hopped away, then 9 hopped in. How many now? _____
17. Grace had 19 beads, used 8, then used 4 more. How many left? _____
18. A team scored 9 points, then 6, then 5 more. What is the total? _____
19. Owen had 12 balloons, popped 5, then got 8 more. How many now? _____
20. A pan had 14 rolls. Mom added 6, then 9 were eaten. How many left? _____

◆ Word Problems

21. Carlos had 35 baseball cards. His grandpa gave him 20 more cards. Then Carlos traded 14 cards with a friend. How many baseball cards does Carlos have now? _____
22. A flower shop had 60 roses. In the morning, 25 roses were sold. In the afternoon, 18 more roses were sold. How many roses are left in the shop? _____



23. Emma collected 28 seashells at the beach. Her brother gave her 16 of his seashells. Then Emma gave 19 shells to her class. How many seashells does Emma have now? _____

24. A parking lot had 45 cars. Then 17 cars drove away. A little later, 22 new cars parked in the lot. How many cars are in the parking lot now? _____



Answer Keys

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|--------|------------------|
| 1. 9 | 13. 14 |
| 2. 8 | 14. 13 |
| 3. 10 | 15. 12 |
| 4. 16 | 16. 14 |
| 5. 12 | 17. 7 |
| 6. 17 | 18. 20 |
| 7. 7 | 19. 15 |
| 8. 9 | 20. 11 |
| 9. 13 | 21. 41 cards |
| 10. 11 | 22. 17 roses |
| 11. 11 | 23. 25 seashells |
| 12. 16 | 24. 50 cars |

Step-by-Step Explanations

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| <p>1. First $7 + 5 = 12$, then $12 - 3 = 9$ pens.</p> <p>2. First $20 - 8 = 12$, then $12 - 4 = 8$ grapes.</p> <p>3. First $6 + 9 = 15$, then $15 - 5 = 10$ books.</p> <p>4. First $15 - 6 = 9$, then $9 + 7 = 16$ marbles.</p> <p>5. First $9 + 8 = 17$, then $17 - 5 = 12$ kids.</p> <p>6. First $12 - 4 = 8$, then $8 + 9 = 17$ apples.</p> <p>7. First $18 - 5 = 13$, then $13 - 6 = 7$ candies.</p> <p>8. First $10 + 8 = 18$, then $18 - 9 = 9$ shells.</p> <p>9. First $14 + 6 = 20$, then $20 - 7 = 13$ cards.</p> <p>10. First $16 - 9 = 7$, then $7 + 4 = 11$ birds.</p> <p>11. First $8 + 8 = 16$, then $16 - 5 = 11$ stickers.</p> <p>12. First $20 - 7 = 13$, then $13 + 3 = 16$ blocks.</p> <p>13. First $13 + 7 = 20$, then $20 - 6 = 14$ cookies.</p> <p>14. First $17 - 9 = 8$, then $8 + 5 = 13$ crayons.</p> | <p>15. First $11 + 9 = 20$, then $20 - 8 = 12$ coins.</p> <p>16. First $10 - 5 = 5$, then $5 + 9 = 14$ frogs.</p> <p>17. First $19 - 8 = 11$, then $11 - 4 = 7$ beads.</p> <p>18. First $9 + 6 = 15$, then $15 + 5 = 20$ points.</p> <p>19. First $12 - 5 = 7$, then $7 + 8 = 15$ balloons.</p> <p>20. First $14 + 6 = 20$, then $20 - 9 = 11$ rolls.</p> <p>21. First add the cards from grandpa: $35 + 20 = 55$. Then subtract the traded cards: $55 - 14 = 41$ cards.</p> <p>22. First subtract the morning roses: $60 - 25 = 35$. Then subtract the afternoon roses: $35 - 18 = 17$ roses.</p> <p>23. First add her brother's shells: $28 + 16 = 44$. Then subtract the shells she gave away: $44 - 19 = 25$ shells.</p> <p>24. First subtract the cars that left: $45 - 17 = 28$. Then add the new cars: $28 + 22 = 50$ cars.</p> |
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