

Multi-Step Word Problems

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 24

Quick Review

A **multi-step word problem** takes more than one operation to solve. The trick is to work in **steps**: figure out what you can find **first**, then use that answer to find what comes **next**. Read carefully and watch the order — usually you **multiply or divide** before you **add or subtract**. After you finish, always ask yourself, “**Does my answer make sense?**” Estimating first is a great way to catch mistakes.

◇ **Example:** Maria buys 5 packs of pencils with 6 pencils in each pack. Then she finds 4 more pencils in her desk. How many pencils does she have in all?
 ⇒ Let’s break this into two steps. First, find how many pencils are in the packs: $5 \times 6 = 30$. Now add the 4 extra pencils she found: $30 + 4 = 34$. Doing the multiplication first and the addition second gives us 34 pencils altogether.

Answer: 34 pencils

PRACTICE

Solve each multi-step problem. Work one step at a time.

- 5 boxes of 6 crayons, plus 4 loose crayons. How many crayons in all? _____
- 8 bags with 3 apples each, then 7 apples are eaten. How many apples are left? _____
- 24 cookies shared into 4 equal plates, then 9 more cookies are added to the plates. How many cookies are there now? _____
- 7 tables with 5 chairs, plus 7 tables with 2 stools. How many seats in all? _____
- Start with 50 stickers, give away 3 sheets of 8. How many stickers are left? _____
- 6 rows of 9 seats, plus 12 extra seats. How many seats total? _____
- Start with 100 beads, use 4 strings of 15 beads. How many beads are left? _____
- 9 red marbles per bag in 4 bags, plus 9 blue marbles per bag. How many marbles in all? _____
- 36 pretzels shared among 6 kids, then each kid gets 8 more. How many pretzels does each kid have? _____
- 12 packs of 5 stamps, then 20 stamps are mailed. How many stamps are left? _____

Word Problems

- Ben packs 4 lunch boxes with 6 granola bars in each. On the way to school he gives 9 bars to friends, then his mom hands him 12 more. How many granola bars does Ben have now? _____
- For a class party, the teacher buys 3 trays of 8 muffins and 5 bags of 4 cookies. How many treats did the teacher buy altogether? _____



23. A school has 120 library books to share. First 7 classrooms each take 9 books. The rest are split evenly among 3 reading corners. How many books does each reading corner get? _____

24. Grace has 9 boxes with 8 colored pencils in each. She gives 12 pencils to her little brother, then puts the rest into 6 cups with the same number in each. How many pencils go in each cup? _____



Answer Keys

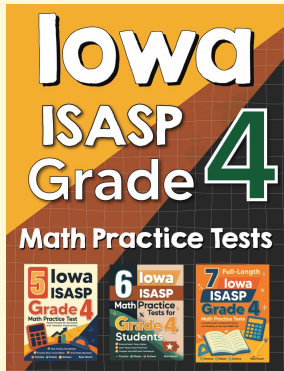
- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. 34 crayons | 13. 80 books |
| 2. 17 apples | 14. 50 pennies |
| 3. 15 cookies | 15. 6 grapes |
| 4. 49 seats | 16. 114 players |
| 5. 26 stickers | 17. 25 donuts |
| 6. 66 seats | 18. 57 stickers |
| 7. 40 beads | 19. 110 oranges |
| 8. 63 marbles | 20. 120 nuts |
| 9. 14 pretzels | 21. 27 granola bars |
| 10. 40 stamps | 22. 44 treats |
| 11. 39 flowers | 23. 19 books |
| 12. 7 cards | 24. 10 pencils |

Step-by-Step Explanations

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. First $5 \times 6 = 30$, then $30 + 4 = 34$. | 15. First $15 + 9 = 24$, then $24 \div 4 = 6$. |
| 2. First $8 \times 3 = 24$, then $24 - 7 = 17$. | 16. First $7 \times 12 = 84$, then $84 + 30 = 114$. |
| 3. First $24 \div 4 = 6$, then $6 + 9 = 15$. | 17. $5 \times 9 = 45$ and $5 \times 4 = 20$, so $45 - 20 = 25$. |
| 4. $7 \times 5 = 35$ and $7 \times 2 = 14$, so $35 + 14 = 49$. | 18. First $96 \div 8 = 12$, then $12 + 45 = 57$. |
| 5. First $3 \times 8 = 24$, then $50 - 24 = 26$. | 19. First $9 \times 15 = 135$, then $135 - 25 = 110$. |
| 6. First $6 \times 9 = 54$, then $54 + 12 = 66$. | 20. $6 \times 13 = 78$ and $6 \times 7 = 42$, so $78 + 42 = 120$. |
| 7. First $4 \times 15 = 60$, then $100 - 60 = 40$. | 21. Step by step: $4 \times 6 = 24$ bars packed. Then $24 - 9 = 15$ after sharing, and $15 + 12 = 27$ after his mom adds more. Ben has 27 bars. |
| 8. $9 \times 4 = 36$ and $9 \times 3 = 27$, so $36 + 27 = 63$. | 22. Find each amount first: $3 \times 8 = 24$ muffins and $5 \times 4 = 20$ cookies. Then add: $24 + 20 = 44$ treats in all. |
| 9. First $36 \div 6 = 6$, then $6 + 8 = 14$. | 23. The classrooms take $7 \times 9 = 63$ books. That leaves $120 - 63 = 57$ books. Split among 3 corners: $57 \div 3 = 19$ books each. |
| 10. First $12 \times 5 = 60$, then $60 - 20 = 40$. | 24. First $9 \times 8 = 72$ pencils. After giving some away, $72 - 12 = 60$. Split into 6 cups: $60 \div 6 = 10$ pencils each. |
| 11. $3 \times 7 = 21$ and $3 \times 6 = 18$, so $21 + 18 = 39$. | |
| 12. First $84 \div 7 = 12$, then $12 - 5 = 7$. | |
| 13. $8 \times 8 = 64$ and $8 \times 2 = 16$, so $64 + 16 = 80$. | |
| 14. First $6 \times 25 = 150$, then $200 - 150 = 50$. | |



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