

# 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

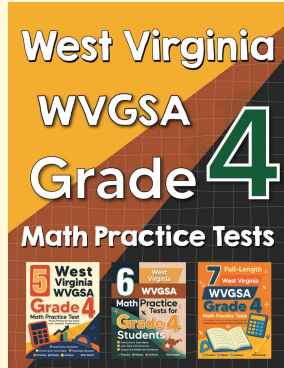
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 34 crayons</li> <li>2. 17 apples</li> <li>3. 15 cookies</li> <li>4. 49 seats</li> <li>5. 26 stickers</li> <li>6. 66 seats</li> <li>7. 40 beads</li> <li>8. 63 marbles</li> <li>9. 14 pretzels</li> <li>10. 40 stamps</li> <li>11. 39 flowers</li> <li>12. 7 cards</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. 80 books</li> <li>14. 50 pennies</li> <li>15. 6 grapes</li> <li>16. 114 players</li> <li>17. 25 donuts</li> <li>18. 57 stickers</li> <li>19. 110 oranges</li> <li>20. 120 nuts</li> <li>21. 27 granola bars</li> <li>22. 44 treats</li> <li>23. 19 books</li> <li>24. 10 pencils</li> </ol> |
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### Step-by-Step Explanations

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First <math>5 \times 6 = 30</math>, then <math>30 + 4 = 34</math>.</li> <li>2. First <math>8 \times 3 = 24</math>, then <math>24 - 7 = 17</math>.</li> <li>3. First <math>24 \div 4 = 6</math>, then <math>6 + 9 = 15</math>.</li> <li>4. <math>7 \times 5 = 35</math> and <math>7 \times 2 = 14</math>, so <math>35 + 14 = 49</math>.</li> <li>5. First <math>3 \times 8 = 24</math>, then <math>50 - 24 = 26</math>.</li> <li>6. First <math>6 \times 9 = 54</math>, then <math>54 + 12 = 66</math>.</li> <li>7. First <math>4 \times 15 = 60</math>, then <math>100 - 60 = 40</math>.</li> <li>8. <math>9 \times 4 = 36</math> and <math>9 \times 3 = 27</math>, so <math>36 + 27 = 63</math>.</li> <li>9. First <math>36 \div 6 = 6</math>, then <math>6 + 8 = 14</math>.</li> <li>10. First <math>12 \times 5 = 60</math>, then <math>60 - 20 = 40</math>.</li> <li>11. <math>3 \times 7 = 21</math> and <math>3 \times 6 = 18</math>, so <math>21 + 18 = 39</math>.</li> <li>12. First <math>84 \div 7 = 12</math>, then <math>12 - 5 = 7</math>.</li> <li>13. <math>8 \times 8 = 64</math> and <math>8 \times 2 = 16</math>, so <math>64 + 16 = 80</math>.</li> <li>14. First <math>6 \times 25 = 150</math>, then <math>200 - 150 = 50</math>.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. First <math>15 + 9 = 24</math>, then <math>24 \div 4 = 6</math>.</li> <li>16. First <math>7 \times 12 = 84</math>, then <math>84 + 30 = 114</math>.</li> <li>17. <math>5 \times 9 = 45</math> and <math>5 \times 4 = 20</math>, so <math>45 - 20 = 25</math>.</li> <li>18. First <math>96 \div 8 = 12</math>, then <math>12 + 45 = 57</math>.</li> <li>19. First <math>9 \times 15 = 135</math>, then <math>135 - 25 = 110</math>.</li> <li>20. <math>6 \times 13 = 78</math> and <math>6 \times 7 = 42</math>, so <math>78 + 42 = 120</math>.</li> <li>21. Step by step: <math>4 \times 6 = 24</math> bars packed. Then <math>24 - 9 = 15</math> after sharing, and <math>15 + 12 = 27</math> after his mom adds more. Ben has 27 bars.</li> <li>22. Find each amount first: <math>3 \times 8 = 24</math> muffins and <math>5 \times 4 = 20</math> cookies. Then add: <math>24 + 20 = 44</math> treats in all.</li> <li>23. The classrooms take <math>7 \times 9 = 63</math> books. That leaves <math>120 - 63 = 57</math> books. Split among 3 corners: <math>57 \div 3 = 19</math> books each.</li> <li>24. First <math>9 \times 8 = 72</math> pencils. After giving some away, <math>72 - 12 = 60</math>. Split into 6 cups: <math>60 \div 6 = 10</math> pencils each.</li> </ol> |
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