

Real-World Problems with Rational Numbers

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 18

Quick Review and Helpful Hints

Real problems often mix fractions, decimals, and negative numbers. Read carefully, decide which operation fits (add, subtract, multiply, or divide), and keep track of *signs* and *units* as you work.

▶ **Example:** A diver goes down $\frac{1}{2}$ of 30 ft, then 5 more ft. How far down in all? **Work:** $\frac{1}{2}$ of 30 is 15. Then add the 5 more: $15 + 5$.

★ **Answer:** 20 ft



Choose the operation; track the signs.

Practice Problems

Compute each value.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1. $\frac{1}{2}$ of 30 | _____ | 8. $10 - 0.5$ | _____ |
| 2. 0.25×80 | _____ | 9. 0.2×50 | _____ |
| 3. $\frac{3}{4}$ of 20 | _____ | 10. $-6 - 4$ | _____ |
| 4. $12 + (-5)$ | _____ | 11. $\frac{2}{3}$ of 9 | _____ |
| 5. $-8 + 3$ | _____ | 12. 1.5×4 | _____ |
| 6. $2.5 + 1.5$ | _____ | 13. $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{4}$ | _____ |
| 7. $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4}$ | _____ | 14. -3×4 | _____ |

Word Problems

15. A recipe needs $\frac{3}{4}$ cup twice. How much in total? _____
16. The temperature was 5° , then dropped 8° . What is the new temperature? _____
17. A \$40 item is $\frac{1}{4}$ off. What is the discount amount? _____
18. You walk 2.5 mi, then 1.5 mi. What is the total distance? _____



Answer Keys

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="text" value="15"/> | 7. <input type="text" value="3/4"/> | 13. <input type="text" value="1/2"/> |
| 2. <input type="text" value="20"/> | 8. <input type="text" value="9.5"/> | 14. <input type="text" value="-12"/> |
| 3. <input type="text" value="15"/> | 9. <input type="text" value="10"/> | 15. <input type="text" value="3/2"/> |
| 4. <input type="text" value="7"/> | 10. <input type="text" value="-10"/> | 16. <input type="text" value="-3"/> |
| 5. <input type="text" value="-5"/> | 11. <input type="text" value="6"/> | 17. <input type="text" value="10"/> |
| 6. <input type="text" value="4"/> | 12. <input type="text" value="6"/> | 18. <input type="text" value="4 mi"/> |

Step-by-Step Explanations

1. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is $\frac{1}{2} \times 30 = 15$. So the final answer is 15.
2. A good way to think about this is: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is $0.25 \times 80 = 20$. So the final answer is 20.
3. Step by step: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is $\frac{3}{4} \times 20 = 15$. So the final answer is 15.
4. Take it one move at a time: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is $12 - 5 = 7$. So the final answer is 7.
5. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is $-8 + 3 = -5$. So the final answer is -5.
6. A good way to think about this is: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is $2.5 + 1.5 = 4$. So the final answer is 4.
7. Step by step: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is $\frac{2}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$. So the final answer is $\frac{3}{4}$.
8. Take it one move at a time: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is $10 - 0.5 = 9.5$. So the final answer is 9.5.
9. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is $0.2 \times 50 = 10$. So the final answer is 10.

10. A good way to think about this is: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is $-6 - 4 = -10$. So the final answer is -10.
11. Step by step: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is $\frac{2}{3} \times 9 = 6$. So the final answer is 6.
12. Take it one move at a time: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is $1.5 \times 4 = 6$. So the final answer is 6.
13. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{4} = \frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$. So the final answer is $\frac{1}{2}$.
14. A good way to think about this is: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is $-3 \times 4 = -12$. So the final answer is -12.
15. Step by step: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is $\frac{3}{4} + \frac{3}{4} = \frac{6}{4} = \frac{3}{2}$ cups. So the final answer is $\frac{3}{2}$.
16. Take it one move at a time: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is $5 - 8 = -3$. So the final answer is -3.
17. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is $\frac{1}{4} \times 40 = 10$. So the final answer is 10.
18. A good way to think about this is: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is $2.5 + 1.5 = 4$ mi. So the final answer is 4 mi.



Keep Building ASVAB Math Skills

Recommended Effortless Math resources



The Most Comprehensive ASVAB Math Preparation Bundle

Use the complete ASVAB Math resource for review, worked examples, extra practice, and test-style questions after each worksheet.



Scan Me
Download Instantly

STUDENT FAVORITE - ASVAB Math for Beginners



ASVAB Math for Beginners 2026

Step-by-step lessons, topic practice, and full review support for students who want a calm path through ASVAB Math preparation.

A strong companion for self-study, tutoring, homework, and targeted review.

PDF Edition



Scan Me
Download Instantly

For more ASVAB Math prep, visit EffortlessMath.com/ASVAB