

Tips for Changing Word Problems into Math Problems

Key Words for:

Addition – Add, plus, sum, total, increased by, more than, in all, altogether, perimeter

Subtraction – Subtract, minus, remove, decreased by, difference, take away, left, less than

Key Questions for Subtraction –

“How much is left?”

“How much more is needed?”

“How much more/higher/warmer/etc...?”

Multiplication – Multiple, times, product, each, of, by

Division – Divide, distribute, each, split, quotient, into, per, over

Equals Sign – Is equal to, is the same as, is, produces, yields, results in

Math Phrases:

ADDITION

the sum of “X” and 3

“H” plus “K”

7 added to “T”

3 more than a number

“Z” increased by 2

TRANSLATION

“X” + 3

“H” + “K”

“T” + 7

“X” + 3

“Z” + 2

*** Because addition is commutative, it doesn’t matter what order we write it in.**

SUBTRACTION

the difference of “X” and 3

“H” minus “K”

7 subtracted from “T”

3 less than a number

“Y” decreased by 2

TRANSLATION

“X” – 3

“H” – “K”

“T” – 7

“N” – 3

“Y” – 2

*** Subtraction is NOT commutative, so it DOES matter the order we write it.**

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MULTIPLICATION

the product of 3 and "X"

4 times "K"

twice a number

triple the number

TRANSLATION

3X

4K

2X

3X

*** Like addition, it doesn't matter what order we write it in because multiplication is commutative. However, in standard form, you write the coefficient (number) first, then the variable (letter).**

DIVISION

2/5 of a number

the reciprocal of "N"

TRANSLATION

2/5X

1/"N"

Formulas:

Perimeter of a rectangle -

Area of a rectangle -

Area of a parallelogram -

Surface area of a box -

Volume of a box -

Force

Distance

TRANSLATION

$P = 2L + 2W$

$A = LW$

$A = BH$

$SA = 2LW + 2LH + 2WH$

$V = LWH$

$F = MA$

$D = RT$