

## Solving Word Problems!!!

Read the problem over and over again until you understand,

what it is their asking for subtraction is less than,  
addition is and.

Multiplication is the product, division is a fraction.

Now its time to take some action!!

Choose a variable wisely to represent the unknown,

because eventually the variable, has to stand alone.

Write down in words the mathmatical problem.

Now your almost ready to solve'em.

Translate into a mathmatical expression,

your almost there don't go into a depression.

Once you've translated into an equation,

it's almost time to celebrate this joyous occasion.

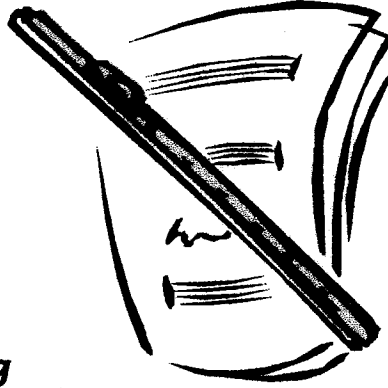
Answer the question that was originally asked,

for this problem is on the brink of being unmasked.

Check your work by substituting your answer,

for if it fit you've just survived mathematical cancer.

## **Solving Word Problems**



### **The Song**

***If you need to solve a word problem clap your hands  
f you need to solve a word problem clap your hands  
If you need to solve a word problem and you really want to  
show it clap your hands***

***If you have read it through and through clap your hands  
If you have read it through and through clap your hands  
f you have read it through and through and you really want to  
show it clap your hands***

***If you have wrote down all the information they give clap your hands  
If you have wrote down all the information they give clap your hands  
If you have wrote down all the information they give and you really  
want to  
show it clap your hands***

***If you have put the information into a equation clap your hands  
If you have put the information into a equation clap your hands  
If you have put the information into a equation and you really want to  
show it clap your hands***

***If you have solved the equation clap your hands  
If you have solved the equation clap your hands  
If you have solved the equation and you really want to  
show it clap your hands***

When attempting to solve a word problem, you first need to figure out all it's parts and what they mean. Distinguishing between certain words and phrases can make all the difference. For example, the sum and the product are two totally different things and can produce two totally different results. The sum is the answer to an addition problem whereas the product is the answer to a multiplication problem. Once you break the problem down, it's much easier to solve.

Let's take the simple problem: -19 added to the sum of -31 and 12. Starting at the beginning of the problem it's pretty easy to figure out you start with 19 and then add it too what? Here's where it can get complicated if you don't know your terms. You add 19 to the sum, or total, of -31 and 12, which is -19. So now we have 19 plus -19, which obviously equals zero. Or:  $19 + (-31 + 12) = 19 + -19 = 0$

A more difficult example would be as such: The sum of three times a number and 12 more than the number is the same as the difference between -6 and twice the number. What is the number? To go about solving this problem we start by figuring out that the sum of "three times a number" means  $3x$ . We let  $x$  = the number. Then we translate the phrase "12 more than the number" to 12 plus  $x$ , or  $12x$ . The word "and" between these two phrases indicates that we are adding them together like so:  $3x + (12 + x)$ . When we are told that  $3x + (12 + x)$  is "the same as" it mean equals to. So we have  $3x + (12 + x) =$  the difference, which means subtraction, between -6 and twice the number. This tells us to subtract -6 from  $2x$  or  $-6 - 2$ . So now, what started out as a complicated word problem is nothing more than a simple equation:  $4x + 12 = -6 - 2x$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 4x + 12 = -6 - 2x \\
 +2x -12 \quad -12 + 2x \\
 \hline
 6x = -18 \\
 \frac{6x}{6} = \frac{-18}{6} \\
 X = -3
 \end{array}$$

## How to Solve a Word Problem

To solve a word problem is a very tricky thing.  
To solve a word problem you must come under wing.  
To solve a word problem you see,  
You can't have a brain like a pea.

To start you must read,  
You must read and read and read and read.  
Read this problem until it is red.  
Once you have read it once too many,  
It will be in your head.

Whence you finalize the meaning,  
You must give it your own.  
To give the problem meaning,  
Try and say it like a Rolling Stone.

Put it in words that you get,  
Otherwise the answer you will have not met.  
When you have those words down,  
Put on a dressing gown.

When you're finished with that,  
Push away the cat.  
Then make the words into numbers,  
The only way to get the answer is with numbers.

When you finalize the answer,  
Go back and check.  
To finalize the answer,  
Check the numbers with a calculator on the deck.

If the numbers come out right,  
You can go to bed for the night.  
Proud to know,  
you know how to solve word problems.

Word problems for some ain't so easy;  
while others run through them quick and breezy.  
Here's some advice I suggest to help you pass the test.

First you need to take a deep breath.

Read through the problem;

now don't try to guess.

Read through it again,

take each word at face value.

Put your thinking cap on;

mere words can't outsmart you.

Read through your problem one more time.

Analyze each word.

Write down the symbols and signs

to make sense of this story.

You'll solve the problem and

hail the glory.

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*Once upon a time there was a Word Problem. This Word Problem spent most of it's life trying to explain himself in words. But more than anything he wanted to be solved. Everyone hated Word Problem. They thought he was pointless, you know the whole math in words thing. He was always picked on, especially by this one girl named Fraction and her friends the Exponents. His mother and Father had enough and decided it was time. Time for his parents to help poor Word Problem to get solved. They went to Mr. Math Book for the best directions on how to do this. Mr. Math Book told them to read him. They would have to choose him a variable name now to represent him. Using his new variable name they would make him into an equation. They must not forget to check and make sure he is correct before going on. After that they need to solve the equation. Make sure the question is answered and that the problem will work and make sense.  $X=5$  thought that this was the best. He wasn't a dumb word problem anymore. He thought he was the coolest thing after that. That was the story of a word problem, which is now over. Hope you enjoyed yourself. Maybe you even can pass this story on and help others understand the life of a Word Problem. THE END.*