Solving Word Problems

The key to solving word problems is to see what math operation(s) match the situation.

Read the problem carefully, and imagine in your mind what is happening. You can also draw a picture!

Example. Here, the solution to the problem is written out for you. Circle the correct word and fill in the missing parts.

A laptop cost $650, but Eli got a $40 discount. What was the final price?

Eli paid $40 _less / more_ than $650.

It means we _subtract / add_: $650 ☐ $40 = _____

The final price was _____.

1. Circle the addition and / or subtraction sentence that matches the problem. Solve.

a. Maggie has 62 glitter pens. Of them, 15 don't work, and the rest are good. How many glitter pens do work?

$62 + 15 = \underline{\ ?\ }$

$62 + \underline{\ ?\ } = 15$

$15 + \underline{\ ?\ } = 62$

$15 - 62 = \underline{\ ?\ }$

b. Cash rode 148 km in a bus, and then walked 4 km to Grandma's house. How many kilometers did he travel?

$148 + \underline{\ ?\ } = 4$

$148 + 4 = \underline{\ ?\ }$

$4 + \underline{\ ?\ } = 148$

$148 - \underline{\ ?\ } = 4$

c. The temperature outside is 46 degrees Fahrenheit, and inside it is 74 degrees. What is the difference in the temperatures?

$74 + 46 = \underline{\ ?\ }$

$74 + \underline{\ ?\ } = 46$

$\underline{\ ?\ } - 74 = 46$

$74 - \underline{\ ?\ } = 46$

d. Zoe needs 54 pins for a sewing project. She only has 44. How many more does she need?

$54 + 44 = \underline{\ ?\ }$

$44 - \underline{\ ?\ } = 54$

$54 + \underline{\ ?\ } = 44$

$54 - 44 = \underline{\ ?\ }$