

**SPECTRUM**<sup>®</sup>

# Word Problems

GRADE

**5**



## Focused Practice for Word Problem Mastery

- Real world applications
- Multi-step word problems
- Fractions and decimals
- Metric and customary measurement
- Graphs and probability
- Geometry
- Preparing for algebra



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**Check What You Know****Adding and Subtracting through 6 Digits**

Read the problem carefully and solve. Show your work under each question.

A TV station surveyed its viewers to find their favorite sport. The survey showed that 157,238 people chose basketball, 95,215 people chose football, 63,482 people chose baseball, 8,967 people chose soccer, 4,251 people chose tennis, 294 people chose polo, and 53 people chose rugby.

1. How many people surveyed chose either polo or rugby as their favorite sport?  
\_\_\_\_\_ people
2. What is the difference between the number of people who chose basketball and the number of people who chose football?  
\_\_\_\_\_ people
3. What is an estimate of the number of people who like soccer or tennis best? Round the numbers to the nearest thousand.  
about \_\_\_\_\_ people
4. Sharla notices the three sports that are chosen the most. How many people in total chose basketball, football, or baseball?  
\_\_\_\_\_ people
5. May looks for the three sports that are chosen least. How many people in all chose tennis, polo, or rugby?  
\_\_\_\_\_ people
6. Roberto calculates the difference between the number of people who chose football and the number of people who chose soccer. What is the difference?  
\_\_\_\_\_ people

**Lesson 1.1** Adding and Subtracting 2 and 3 Digits

Read the problem carefully and solve. Show your work under each question.

Carla's Fabric Shop has many different patterns of fabric for sale. The shop sells 227 patterns made of cotton, 24 patterns made of rayon, 18 patterns made of wool, and 35 patterns made of silk.

**Helpful Hint**

Read each question carefully before you decide which numbers to add or subtract. Check each answer to be sure it makes sense.

1. Julia wants to buy patterns made of cotton or wool. How many total patterns are made of cotton or wool at the fabric shop?  
\_\_\_\_\_ patterns
2. Sandra does not like the feel of cotton fabrics. She likes fabrics made of rayon or silk. How many total patterns made of rayon or silk are at the fabric shop?  
\_\_\_\_\_ patterns
3. Kim wants to know how many patterns are not made of rayon or wool. How many patterns in the store are not made of rayon or wool?  
\_\_\_\_\_ patterns
4. Wilma sees that two fabrics in the shop have the fewest choices of patterns. How many patterns in total are made of these two fabrics?  
\_\_\_\_\_ patterns
5. Marta compares the number of patterns made from cotton with the number of patterns made from wool. How many more patterns are made from cotton than from wool?  
\_\_\_\_\_ patterns

**Lesson 1.2** Adding and Subtracting 3 through 6 Digits

Read the problem carefully and solve. Show your work under each question.

Three towns are located near the city of Easton. The towns are Bransom, Newville, and Sterling. The city of Easton has a population of 576,283. Bransom has a population of 4,211, Newville has a population of 919, and Sterling has a population of 652.

**Helpful Hint**

When you subtract large numbers, first subtract the ones, then the tens, the hundreds, the thousands, and so on.

1. Sheryl lives in Easton. She thinks she would like to live in one of the small towns. How many more people live in Newville than in Sterling?  
\_\_\_\_\_ people
2. Mr. Ruiz teaches fifth grade math. One student guesses that 6,000 people altogether live in Bransom and Newville. How many people actually live in the two towns?  
\_\_\_\_\_ people
3. Tomas is comparing the populations of the largest city and the smallest town. How many more people live in Easton than in Sterling?  
\_\_\_\_\_ people
4. A water company needs to provide water for all the people in Easton and Bransom. How many people live in the two towns?  
\_\_\_\_\_ people
5. The doctors of Newville and Sterling want to build a new emergency room to serve the people in the two towns. How many people would the emergency room serve in all?  
\_\_\_\_\_ people

**Lesson 1.3** Adding 3 or More Numbers (3 to 6 Digits)

Read the problem carefully and solve. Show your work under each question.

Gnus (*nus*) are wild animals that look like a mix of a cow and a horse. Gnus live in African grasslands. Gamekeepers are counting the herds of gnu in one area. Herd A has 383,610 gnus. Herd B has 107,941 gnus. Herd C has 58,735 gnus. Herd D has 5,479 gnus. Herd E has 224,878 gnus.

**Helpful Hint**

When you add large numbers, first add the ones, and then the tens. Then, add the hundreds. Then, add the thousands. Keep going until all the numbers are added.

1. Mr. Lee asks Tran how many gnus are in the three smallest herds. What is the total number of gnus in the three smallest herds?  
\_\_\_\_\_ gnus
2. Linda says that there are about 700,000 gnus in the three largest herds. How many gnus altogether were actually counted in the three largest herds?  
\_\_\_\_\_ gnus
3. Miriam adds together all the herds with less than 300,000 gnus. What is the total number of gnus in these herds?  
\_\_\_\_\_ gnus
4. Jorge finds the sum of four of the herds of gnus, not counting Herd C. What is that sum?  
\_\_\_\_\_ gnus
5. Gamekeepers are writing a report about the gnus in their area. How many gnus did they count in total?  
\_\_\_\_\_ gnus

**Lesson 1.4** Estimating Sums and Differences

Read the problem carefully and solve. Show your work under each question.

Acme Pencil Company ships boxes of pencils to different companies. This week, Acme ships 1,534 boxes to Sizemore Sales. Then, Acme ships 3,795 boxes to Morgan Company. It sends 12,478 boxes to Big Mart Retailers. Also, Acme sends 38,722 boxes to Every State Sellers.

**Helpful Hint**

Before you estimate a sum or difference, round each number to the greatest place value the numbers have in common.

1. Sergio is a sales manager for Acme. He compares the largest and smallest shipments of boxes this week. What is an estimate of the difference?  
about \_\_\_\_\_ boxes
2. Carmen estimates the total number of pencil boxes in the two largest shipments this week. About how many boxes were in these two shipments?  
about \_\_\_\_\_ boxes
3. Gary compares the two smallest shipments. About how many more boxes of pencils were shipped to Morgan Company than to Sizemore Sales?  
about \_\_\_\_\_ boxes
4. About how many more boxes of pencils were shipped to Big Mart Retailers than to Morgan Company this week?  
about \_\_\_\_\_ boxes



## Check What You Learned

### Adding and Subtracting through 6 Digits

Read the problem carefully and solve. Show your work under each question.

In the city of Agate, the voters are members of several political parties. 134,977 voters are Loyalists, 86,356 are Titans, 4,318 are Patriots, 988 are Rankers, and 93 are Junkers.

- Raymond compares the political parties with the greatest and the least number of voters. What is the difference in the number of voters in these two parties?  
\_\_\_\_\_ voters
- The Loyalists have more voters than all of the other parties combined. What is the total number of voters in all the other parties?  
\_\_\_\_\_ voters
- Tracy thinks that there are less than 5,000 total voters in the three smallest parties. How many voters altogether are in the three parties?  
\_\_\_\_\_ voters
- Juan hears that 12,000 voters are going to leave the Loyalist party. How many members will the Loyalist party have if 12,000 members leave?  
\_\_\_\_\_ members
- Margot is asked to guess the total number of voters in the two largest parties. What is a good estimate?  
about \_\_\_\_\_ voters
- All the members of the Patriots party decide to join the Loyalists. How many voters are in the Loyalists and Patriots combined?  
\_\_\_\_\_ voters



## Check What You Know

### Multiplying through 4 Digits by 3 Digits

Read the problem carefully and solve. Show your work under each question.

Students in Thornton's schools are collecting soda cans and bottles for a charity drive. They have a contest to see which students and which schools collect the most cans and bottles.

1. Elmhurst has 328 students. Each student collects 28 cans during the contest. How many cans do the students collect?  
\_\_\_\_\_ cans
2. At Oakwood, 7 students collect 125 bottles each. How many bottles do these students collect in all?  
\_\_\_\_\_ bottles
3. Park Central has 156 students. Each student collects 114 bottles. How many bottles do they collect in total?  
\_\_\_\_\_ bottles
4. The contest lasts 15 weeks. One student, Raul, collects 33 cans per week. How many cans does Raul collect during the contest?  
\_\_\_\_\_ cans
5. During the contest, 2,254 students each collect 24 bottles. How many bottles do they collect in all?  
\_\_\_\_\_ bottles
6. When the contest ends, 11 schools have collected an average of 8,995 cans per school. What is an estimate of the total number of cans collected by the schools?  
about \_\_\_\_\_ cans

**Lesson 2.1** Multiplying 1, 2, and 3 Digits by 1 Digit

Read the problem carefully and solve. Show your work under each question.

A computer game company held a contest on Saturday. The company kept track of how many hours each person participated in the contest. 27 people played for 2 hours. 113 people played for 3 hours. 73 people played for 4 hours. 35 people played for 5 hours. 18 people played for 6 hours.

**Helpful Hint**

To find the total time a group of people spends on an activity, multiply the number of people by the time each one spends on the activity.

- Which group of players had the most number of hours? How many total hours did they play?  
the group of \_\_\_\_\_ people  
\_\_\_\_\_ hours
- Some of the participants played in the contest for 4 hours. How many total hours did these participants play?  
\_\_\_\_\_ hours
- The largest group had more than 100 players. How many total hours did these players participate in the contest?  
\_\_\_\_\_ hours
- One group of participants played for the shortest amount of time. How many total hours did this group play?  
\_\_\_\_\_ hours
- How many total hours did the group with 35 participants play in the contest?  
\_\_\_\_\_ hours

## Lesson 2.2 Multiplying 2 and 3 Digits by 2 Digits

Read the problem carefully and solve. Show your work under each question.

At Sparrow Hospital, the nurses work 12-hour shifts, three days per week. There are 4 weeks in an average month and 12 months in a year. At the hospital, 23 nurses work during each shift.

### Helpful Hint

Multiply right to left.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \overset{1}{2} 4 \\
 \times 3 \\
 \hline
 7 2
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{r}
 2 4 \\
 \times 1 3 \\
 \hline
 7 2 \\
 + 2 4 0 \\
 \hline
 3 1 2
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{r}
 2 4 \\
 \times 1 0 \\
 \hline
 2 4 0
 \end{array}$$

- During one shift, 23 nurses work 12 hours each. How many total hours do the nurses work on the shift?  
\_\_\_\_\_ hours
- In an average month, each nurse works a total of 12 days. How many total hours does each nurse work in an average month?  
\_\_\_\_\_ hours
- Lucia is a nurse at the hospital. With overtime, she works an average of 150 hours each month. How many hours does Lucia work in a year?  
\_\_\_\_\_ hours
- Nurse Tanya works an extra day each month. How many days does Tanya work each year?  
\_\_\_\_\_ days

**Lesson 2.3** Multiplying 4 Digits by 1 and 2 Digits

Read the problem carefully and solve. Show your work under each question.

Giant Auto Sales Lot has a bonus plan for the salespeople. For \$50,000 in total sales, a salesperson gets a bonus of \$2,250. For \$75,000 in sales, the bonus is \$3,475. The bonus for \$100,000 is \$4,775.

**Helpful Hint**

When you multiply a number with a 5 in the ones place, the product always has a 0 or a 5 in the ones place.

1. Eleven salespeople each sell \$50,000 worth of cars this month. How much bonus money in total does Giant Auto pay them?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. This month, four salespeople each have sales worth \$100,000. What total amount of money in bonuses does the company pay them?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Seven people each get bonuses for sales totals of \$75,000. How much does the auto company pay them in total?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. The company sets a goal for 15 people to have sales worth \$50,000 next month. How much money does the company plan to pay them in bonuses?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Last month, three people each had sales of \$75,000. What is the total of bonuses that Giant Auto paid?  
\_\_\_\_\_