Word Problems

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Read the question very carefully before you begin. Decide whether you will need to use addition, subtraction, multiplication or division to work it out.

1. Joshua had a glass of water with 250ml in it. He drank 100ml of the water. How much was left?

250 – 100 = 150ml

1. Lorna ate 30g of cereal for her breakfast each day. How much cereal would she have eaten after 5 days?

3 x 5 = 15

Add the 0 back on = 150g

1. Martha wants to buy a new book that costs £3.25. She has £2.12 in her pocket and her dad has given her £1. Can she afford the book yet?

 2.12 + 1 = £3.12 No, she needs 13 more pence

1. At the aquarium, they have just bought a new batch of piranhas which they need to split equally between 3 very large tanks. If there are 99 piranhas, how many will be in each tank?

99 ÷ 3 = 33

1. At the boating lake, there are 15 pedalos. One pedalo can seat 4 people. How many people could go on the pedalos at once?

15 x 4 = 60

1. In January, the library lent out 250 books. In February, they lent out 45 more books than they did in January. How many books did they lend out in February?

250 + 45 = 295

1. There were 600 visitors to Alton Towers on Monday, 1000 visitors on Tuesday and 725 visitors on Wednesday. On Thursday, they only got half as many visitors as they got on Monday. How many people visited the park altogether over the 4 days?

First, work out Thursday by finding half of 600 ( 300) then add them all together

600+1000+725+300 = 2625

1. The Juice Factory juice bar sells strawberry smoothies for £2.35 each. They sell banana smoothies for £2.20 each. If I bought 1 strawberry smoothie and 2 banana smoothies, how much money will I have spent altogether?

2 banana smoothies is 2.20+2.20 = 4.40

4.40+2.35 = £6.75

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1. Jodie has taken her pocket money to the charity shop. She has £3.25 to spend. She’d like to buy a book which costs 75p, a doll which costs £1.35 and a puzzle which costs 50p. How much money will she have left?

0.75 + 1.35 + 0.50 = £2.60

3.25 – 2.60 = 65p

1. Arthur went to Alton towers. He spent 1 hour in the queue for Oblivion, 30 minutes in the queue for Rita and 1 and a half hours in the queue for Nemesis. How many minutes did he spend queueing in total?

60 + 30 + 90 = 180 minutes

1. Ben is having a birthday party. Sausage rolls cost £1.35 for a packet. He needs 8 packets altogether. How much will he spend?

1.35 x 8 = £10.80

1. Every day for 5 days, 350 people visited the Ancient Egypt exhibition at the local museum. How many people is that in total?

350 x 5 = 1750

1. Martha’s pet guinea pigs eat £5.25 worth of salad each week. How much would it cost to feed them for 4 weeks?

5.25 x 4 = £21

1. Luna wants to take her family to the cinema. There are 2 adults and 2 children. It costs £3.45 for a child and £6.45 for an adult. A family ticket costs £18. Is it cheaper for her to buy a family ticket or all separate tickets?

3.45 x 2 = £6.90

6.45 x 2 = £13

 13 + 6.90 = £19.90

 It’s cheaper to buy a family ticket

1. To bake 3 Victoria sponge cakes, Callum needs 801g of self-raising flour. How much would he need for just one cake?

801 ÷ 3 = 267g

Extension Question:

If you did the 2-star sheet, you have checked your answers and you feel quite confident, give this extra question a go.

Ben’s Birthday:

Ben is having his 10th birthday party in June 2021 but it’s going to be a big event so he’s planning ahead. He’s having a rock-climbing party at an indoor climbing centre with a buffet at his house afterwards.

There will be 12 people at his party including himself.

The climbing centre are charging £9 per person.

Food and drink:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sausage rolls 6 pack | £1.35 x 2 = £2.70 |
| Sandwich platter for 6 people | £3.50 x 2 = £7 |
| Birthday cake feeds 12 | £9.50 |
| Crisps multipack 12 bags | £2.70 |
| Bottle of pop (serves 6)  | 50p x 2 = £1 |
| Party bags (per person)  | £1.30 x 12 = £15.60 |

Can you work out the total cost of Ben’s party if everybody gets some of everything?

First work out the cost of the rock climbing

£9 x 12 = £108

Now look at the food, in the table above I have multiplied some of the prices so that there will be enough for all 12 children.

Add the food costs together. Break it into separate calculations so it’s easier to add.

£2.70 + £7 + £9.50 = £19.20

£2.70 + £1 + 15.60 = £19.30

£19.20 + £19.30 = £38.50

Now add the food and the cost of climbing

 108 + 38.50 = £146.50