Word Problems? No Problem!
Sarah R. Powell, Ph.D.

srpowell@austin.utexas.edu   @sarahpowellphd
www.sarahpowellphd.com

Three Takeaways About Word Problems

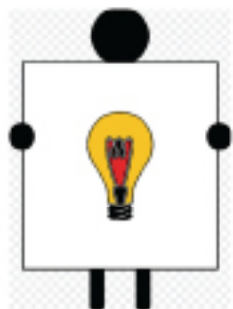|	
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Attack Strategy

UPS✓

Understand	Read the problem. Ask yourself: • What information do I know? • What is the question asking me to find?
Plan	Choose a strategy, a tool or an approach.
Solve	Show the math used to solve the problem.
Check	Check your math. Ask yourself: • Did I answer the question asked? • Is my answer reasonable?

Additive Word Problems

Problem type	Definition	Examples		Equation	Graphic organizer
Total		Total unknown	Part unknown		
Difference		Difference unknown	Greater unknown / Lesser unknown		
Change (increase)		End unknown	Start unknown / Change unknown		
Change (decrease)		End unknown	Start unknown / Change unknown		

Additive Word Problems

A.
Megan baked 28 sugar cookies and 24 chocolate chip cookies. Enter the total number of cookies Megan baked in all.

B.
Jana has 107 wooden beads and 68 glass beads. How many more wooden beads than glass beads does Jana have?

C.
Martina had some money. Then, she spent $42 on a sweater. Now, she has $13. How much money did she have to start with?

Multiplicative Word Problems

Problem type	Definition	Examples			Equation	Graphic organizer
Equal Groups		Product unknown	Groups unknown	Number/group unknown		
Comparison		Product unknown				

Multiplicative Word Problems

A.
Ms. Thompson sold 6 cartons of cherries at the Farmers' Market. Each carton holds 25 cherries. How many cherries did she sell?

B.
Susan has 3 times as many books as Mary. Mary has 18 books. Which equation can be solved to figure out how many books Susan has?