



Word Problems Made Easy

A step-by-step solving strategy for first graders

1 ASK do I add or subtract?

Mary had 7 apples.
She ate 5 of them.
How many apples
did Mary have left?

IDENTIFY clue words

Clues to Add
"how many"
"how many
altogether"
or "total"

**Clues
to Subtract**
"how many
more"
"how many left"

HOW MANY
apples did Mary
have LEFT?

2 WRITE the math fact.

$$\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ - 5 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

3 SOLVE the math fact.

$$\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ - 5 \\ \hline 2 \end{array}$$

4 CHECK the answer.

$$2 + 5 = 7$$

5 WRITE the label.

LOOK for the word after
"how many"
ASK "What is being
added or subtracted?"

$$\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ - 5 \\ \hline 2 \text{ apples} \end{array}$$