1st Grade Math: Real-World Problems – Addition and Subtraction

Objective: Students will learn how to solve real-world problems using addition and subtraction.

Understanding Real-World Problems

In real-world problems, we use math to solve everyday situations. Addition helps us find the total when we combine numbers, while subtraction helps us find what's left when we take something away.

How to Solve Real-World Problems

When solving real-world problems, follow these steps:

1. **Read the problem carefully.**
2. **Identify what the problem is asking.**
   - Do you need to add or subtract?
3. **Underline the numbers in the problem.**
4. **Write an equation to match the problem.**
5. **Solve the equation.**

Addition in Real-World Problems

When we combine or join groups of things, we use **addition**.

Example:

- **Problem:** Emma has 5 apples, and her friend gives her 3 more apples. How many apples does Emma have now?

- **Solution:**

  We are adding 5 apples and 3 apples together.

  $5 + 3 = 8$

Emma now has 8 apples.

Subtraction in Real-World Problems

When we take away or compare amounts, we use **subtraction**.

Example:

- **Problem:** Jack has 7 toy cars. He gave 2 cars to his friend. How many cars does Jack have left?

- **Solution:**

  We are subtracting 2 from 7.
  $$7 - 2 = 5$$

Jack has 5 cars left.

More Examples

Addition Example:

- **Problem:** Lucy has 4 red balloons and 6 blue balloons. How many balloons does she have in total?

- **Solution:**

  We need to add the number of red balloons to the number of blue balloons.
  $$4 + 6 = 10$$

Lucy has 10 balloons in total.

Subtraction Example:

- **Problem:** Tom had 10 cookies, but he ate 4. How many cookies are left?

- **Solution:**

  We need to subtract the 4 cookies Tom ate from the 10 cookies he had.
  $$10 - 4 = 6$$

Tom has 6 cookies left.

Practice Problems

1. **Addition:**
   Sarah has 3 dolls. She buys 2 more. How many dolls does Sarah have now?
2. **Subtraction:**
   Jason had 8 crayons, but he lost 3. How many crayons does Jason have left?

3. **Addition:**
   A farmer has 6 cows and buys 4 more. How many cows does the farmer have in total?
4. **Subtraction:**
   There are 12 birds in a tree. If 5 birds fly away, how many birds are still in the tree?

Word Problems with Mixed Addition and Subtraction

Sometimes, we have to use both addition and subtraction to solve a problem.

Example:

- **Problem:** Emma has 10 pencils. She gives 3 pencils to her friend but then gets 5 more pencils from her mom. How many pencils does Emma have now?

- **Solution:**
  First, subtract the 3 pencils she gave away:
  $$10 - 3 = 7$$

  Then, add the 5 pencils she got from her mom:
  $$7 + 5 = 12$$

Emma now has 12 pencils.

Summary

Real-world problems in math help us understand how to use addition and subtraction in everyday life. Remember to read the problem carefully, decide whether to add or subtract, and solve step by step! Keep practicing to become faster and more confident with these skills.