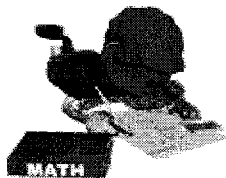


Key Words for Solving Word Problems

The hardest part of solving a word problem is actually understanding the problem and determining the operation (or operations) that needs to be performed. Listed below are a few of the most commonly used key words in word problems and the operations that they signal. Keep in mind that same key words may signal more than one operation. It is then up to you to picture in your head what is going on and then determine which operation best fits that scenario.

ADDITION	
KEY WORDS / PHRASES	SELECTED EXAMPLES
increased by	The class was increased by 15 students.
more than	His collection had 10 cars more than before.
combined	They combined their allowances to buy the present.
together	Together they had 12 eggs.
"total" or "total of"	There were 8 roses, 12 carnations, and 2 daisies. How many flowers did they have total?
sum	The sum of their earnings was \$28.
added to	Her savings this week were added to her savings last week.
altogether	How much money do they have altogether?
both	
in all	How many carrots does she have in all?
additional	If he had ten additional baseball cards, how many would he have in all?
all	If you combined all of their earnings how much would they have?
another	



EQUALS

Is, are, was, were, will be, gives, yields