

# 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.

MULTIPLICATION	
KEY WORDS / PHRASES	SELECTED EXAMPLES
of	Grandpa gave half of his share to Johnny. (multiplication by $\frac{1}{2}$ )
times	John has 4 times as many jelly beans as Jake.
multiplied by	The population multiplied by 12 over the last year.
product of	The product of four and seven
increased by	The population of tigers in the wild increased by ten percent. (multiplication by 0.10 and then addition)
decreased by	The population of rhinoceros living in the wild decreased by twenty-five percent in the last ten years, (multiplication by 0.25 and then subtraction)
factor of	The school population increased by a factor of 12.
every	
at this rate	
in all	There are twelve rows with six plants in each row. How many plants are there in all?
total	There are eight rows with 7 plants in each row. How many plants are there total?
each	Each pair of socks cost \$1.50. How much will six pair cost?
doubled, tripled, quadrupled, etc.	The population of rabbits tripled in two years.

## EQUALS

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

