PROBLEM SOLVING

What Is Problem Solving?

• Problem solving is finding an answer to a question.
• Different strategies can be used to find a solution to a problem.

How to Problem Solve:

• Read the problem carefully.
• Decide on an operation to use to solve the problem.
• Solve the problem.
• Check your work and make sure that your answer makes sense.

Clue Words

Watch for these words in a word problem to give you a clue about what operation to use to solve the problem:

• Clue Words for Addition:
  o sum
  o total
  o in all
  o perimeter

• Clue Words for Subtraction:
  o difference
  o how much more
  o exceed

• Clue Words for Multiplication
  o product
  o total
  o area
  o times

• Clue Words for Division
  o share
  o distribute
  o quotient
  o average
Example:

There are 6 boys and 10 girls at Kerry’s birthday party. How many kids are at Kerry’s birthday party?

6 + 10 = 16 kids

Try This!

Solve the problem.
Justin and Randy are trading baseball cards. Justin has 34 baseball cards. He gives Randy 8 cards. How many baseball cards does Justin have now?

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