



11+ MATHEMATICS

Multi-step Word Problems Revision Sheet

Key facts · Method · Worked example · Quick check

Most 11+ marks are lost on word problems, not on the maths itself. A clear routine fixes that.

Key facts

Read twice	Read the whole question, then read it again and find what it is actually asking.
Underline the numbers	Underline every number and unit, and cross out information you will not need.
Choose the operations	Words like each, every and per usually mean multiply or divide.
One step at a time	Write down the result of each step before moving on.
Answer the question asked	Check you have not stopped at a middle step.

Method: the five-step routine

1	Read the question twice.
2	Underline the numbers and units.
3	Decide the steps and the order.
4	Work through one step at a time, writing each result.
5	Check the answer makes sense and answers the question.

Common mistakes

Watch out: Answering a middle step (for example 120 pencils given out).

Watch out: Rounding a remainder the wrong way: full boxes round down, but trips or days needed round up.

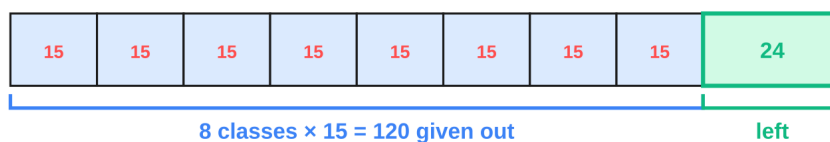
Watch out: Mixing units, such as litres and millilitres.

Worked example

A school buys 6 boxes of 24 pencils. It gives 15 pencils to each of 8 classes. How many pencils are left?

Step	What to do	Working
1	Total pencils	$6 \times 24 = 144$
2	Pencils given out	$8 \times 15 = 120$
3	Pencils left	$144 - 120 = 24$
✓	Answer	24 pencils

Total: 6 boxes $\times$ 24 = 144 pencils



$144 - 120 = 24$ pencils left

Quick check

	Question	Your answer
1	4 tickets cost £6.50 each plus a £3 booking fee. What is the total?	
2	125 eggs are packed in boxes of 12. How many full boxes?	
3	3 drinks cost £1.20 each. What is the change from £5?	

Answers: 1) £29 2) 10 3) £1.40

Put your multi-step word problems skills to the test.

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