Writing Numerical Expressions

Name: _____

Grade 5 · Turn words and stories into expressions, using parentheses when needed

How it works

An **expression** is a math phrase made of numbers and operation signs. It has no equal sign.
When the words tell you to do one part **first**, put that part in parentheses.

Add 8 and 7, then multiply by 2.	**(8 + 7) × 2**
Subtract 4 from 10.	**10 – 4**
Multiply 3 by the sum of 5 and 1.	**3 × (5 + 1)**

A. Write an expression for the words. Do not solve it.

1. Add 6 and 9, then multiply by 4. _____
2. Multiply 5 by 3, then add 12. _____
3. Subtract 8 from 20, then divide by 3. _____
4. Divide 36 by 4, then subtract 5. _____
5. Double the sum of 14 and 6. _____
6. Three times the difference of 15 and 9. _____
7. Add 25 to the product of 4 and 8. _____
8. Subtract the sum of 3 and 5 from 30. _____
9. Find half of the sum of 18 and 12. _____
10. Divide 48 by 6, then add 10. _____

B. Write one expression for each story. Do not solve it.

1. Mia has 3 bags with 8 marbles in each bag. She gives away 5 marbles. How many are left? _____
2. A class of 28 students is joined by 4 more. Then they split into 4 equal teams. How many are on a team? _____
3. A ticket costs $9 and a snack costs $6. Two friends each buy a ticket and a snack. How much do they spend in all? _____
4. Dev had $50. He bought 3 books that cost $12 each. How much money does he have left? _____

C. Circle the expression that matches the words.

1. Add 2 and 6, then multiply by 5. **2 + 6 × 5** **(2 + 6) × 5** **2 × 6 + 5**
2. Subtract 3 from the product of 7 and 4. **3 – 7 × 4** **7 × (4 – 3)** **7 × 4 – 3**

Writing Numerical Expressions (Answer Key)

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How it works

An **expression** is a math phrase made of numbers and operation signs. It has no equal sign.
When the words tell you to do one part **first**, put that part in parentheses.

Add 8 and 7, then multiply by 2.	**(8 + 7) × 2**
Subtract 4 from 10.	**10 – 4**
Multiply 3 by the sum of 5 and 1.	**3 × (5 + 1)**

A. Write an expression for the words. Do not solve it.

1. Add 6 and 9, then multiply by 4. **(6 + 9) × 4**
2. Multiply 5 by 3, then add 12. **5 × 3 + 12**
3. Subtract 8 from 20, then divide by 3. **(20 – 8) ÷ 3**
4. Divide 36 by 4, then subtract 5. **36 ÷ 4 – 5**
5. Double the sum of 14 and 6. **2 × (14 + 6)**
6. Three times the difference of 15 and 9. **3 × (15 – 9)**
7. Add 25 to the product of 4 and 8. **4 × 8 + 25**
8. Subtract the sum of 3 and 5 from 30. **30 – (3 + 5)**
9. Find half of the sum of 18 and 12. **(18 + 12) ÷ 2**
10. Divide 48 by 6, then add 10. **48 ÷ 6 + 10**

B. Write one expression for each story. Do not solve it.

1. Mia has 3 bags with 8 marbles in each bag. She gives away 5 marbles. How many are left? **3 × 8 – 5**
2. A class of 28 students is joined by 4 more. Then they split into 4 equal teams. How many are on a team? **(28 + 4) ÷ 4**
3. A ticket costs $9 and a snack costs $6. Two friends each buy a ticket and a snack. How much do they spend in all? **2 × (9 + 6)**
4. Dev had $50. He bought 3 books that cost $12 each. How much money does he have left? **50 – 3 × 12**

C. Circle the expression that matches the words.

1. Add 2 and 6, then multiply by 5. **2 + 6 × 5** | **(2 + 6) × 5** | **2 × 6 + 5**
2. Subtract 3 from the product of 7 and 4. **3 – 7 × 4** | **7 × (4 – 3)** | **7 × 4 – 3**

Parts A and B: other forms can be right too, such as 4 × (6 + 9) or 2 × 9 + 2 × 6.