

# More Math Vocabulary

All of the following words are integrated into problems on the math section of 4th grade MCAS test. Helping your children become familiar with these words will enable them to solve math problems more easily. Don't let complicated vocabulary get in the way of your children showing what they know in math! Work on these terms at home:

## Addition:

**Addends** - The numbers, in an addition problem, that are added together.

**Sum** - The answer to an addition problem.

In the problem  $3 + 4 = 7$ , the numbers '3' and '4' are the **addends**. The **sum** is 7.

## Subtraction:

**Minuend** - The number one subtracts from.

**Subtrahend** - The number being subtracted.

**Difference** - The answer to a subtraction problem.

In the problem  $12 - 4 = 8$ , the **minuend** is 12, the **subtrahend** is 4, & the **difference** is 8.

## Multiplication:

**Factors** - The numbers one multiplies.

**Product** - The answer to a multiplication problem.

In the problem  $3 \times 5 = 15$ , the **factors** are 3 and 5, and the **product** is 15.

## Division:

**Dividend** - The number being divided.

**Divisor** - The number one divides by.

**Quotient** - The answer to a division problem.

In the problem  $20 \div 5 = 4$ , the **dividend** is 20, the **divisor** is 5, and the **quotient** is 4.

Some division problems have **remainders**. For example, in the problem  $21 \div 5$ , the quotient is 4, with a **remainder** of 1. (If you had 21 jelly beans to divide equally among 5 friends, each friend would get 4 jelly beans, and there would be 1 jelly bean left over.)

**Tip:** When helping your child do math homework, use these terms. For example, instead of asking, "What's the *answer*?" ask, "What's the *sum (difference; product; quotient)?*" It is never too early to start familiarizing your children with these words.

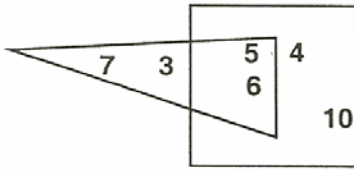
OVER... 

This tip sheet was created with information provided by Donna Melia, a teacher at the Beebe Elementary School in Malden, Massachusetts.

## More Math Vocabulary...Continued

Here are some examples of the types of questions your child may be asked to solve on the 4th grade MCAS test.

### Sample Question 1:



Find the product of the numbers in the big triangle, but not in the square.

Vocabulary your child needs to know to be able to solve this problem: triangle, square, & product.

Solve the problem in steps.

- 1) What are all the numbers that are in the big triangle? (7, 3, 5, 6)
- 2) What are all the numbers that are in the square? (4, 10, 5, 6)
- 3) What are the numbers that are in the triangle, but not in the square? (7, 3)

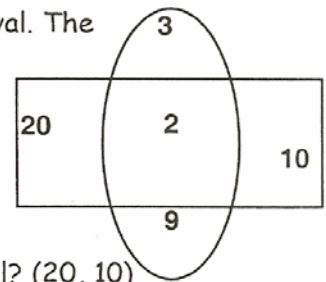
Find the product:  $7 \times 3 = 21$ . The product is 21.

### Sample Question 2:

Find the difference of the numbers in the rectangle, but not in the oval. The difference should be a positive number.

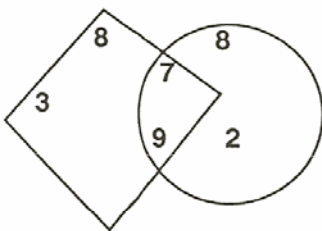
Vocabulary your child needs to know for this problem: rectangle, oval, difference, positive number.

- 1) What are all the numbers in the rectangle? (20, 2, 10)
- 2) What are all the numbers in the oval? (3, 2, 9)
- 3) What are the numbers that are in the rectangle, but not in the oval? (20, 10)



Find the difference:  $20 - 10 = 10$ . The difference is 10.

### Sample Question 3:



Find the sum of the two numbers that are in the circle and the rhombus.

Vocabulary your child needs to know for this problem are sum, circle, & rhombus. (Note: The word 'diamond' is no longer used on the MCAS.)

- 1) What are all the numbers in the circle? (8, 2, 7, 9)
- 2) What are all the numbers in the rhombus? (8, 3, 7, 9)
- 3) What are the numbers that are in both the circle and the rhombus? (7, 9)

Find the sum:  $7 + 9 = 16$ . The sum is 16.

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