

MATCH THE EQUATION

WORD PROBLEMS MATCH THE EQUATION

Read the story, then match it to the one true equation out of three — never write it from scratch. Six practice sets from within-20 single-step problems to two-digit problems to 100 with no regrouping. An answer key, a tracker, a class grid and a family page. Print, or type the names and trackers. PDF.

HOW IT WORKS HOW MATCHING WORKS

THREE STEPS, EVERY PROBLEM

1. Read the whole story
Read it start to finish before looking at any of the three equations.
2. Solve it your own way first
Work it out on scratch paper or in your head, not by scanning the choices for a familiar-looking number.
3. Find the ONE that matches, then check the other two
Only one equation uses the story's numbers, operation and answer. The other two are close on purpose — know why before moving on.

Why two of the three are always wrong, on purpose

- Wrong operation: the same two numbers, added when the story needed subtracting, or the reverse — matching by number alone, not by story, picks this one.
- Wrong result (addition) or transposed numbers (subtraction): the right numbers, but an answer that is off by one or two, or written in the wrong order — see page 12.

A worked example, fully matched

1. Jasmine has 7 red balloons and 6 blue balloons. How many balloons does she have?

$7 + 6 = 15$ $7 + 6 = 13$ $7 - 6 = 1$

LETTER I CIRCLED: B NUMBER SENTENCE: $7 + 6 = 13$

A second worked example, subtraction

1. Mateo had 16 grapes. He ate 9 grapes.

Try it together before the worksheets
Cover the three choices. Ask the story's question out.

LEVEL 1 · ADDITION WITHIN 20

Read the story. Find the ONE equation that matches it and circle its letter. Then write the letter and the number sentence on the lines. How matching works is on page 4.

1. Jasmine has 7 red balloons and 6 blue balloons. How many balloons does she have?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A $7 + 6 = 15$ B $7 + 6 = 13$ C $7 - 6 = 1$

LETTER I CIRCLED: _____ NUMBER SENTENCE: _____

2. Theo picked 9 apples in the morning and 8 apples in the afternoon. How many apples did he pick in all?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A $9 - 8 = 1$ B $9 + 8 = 19$ C $9 + 8 = 17$

LETTER I CIRCLED: _____ NUMBER SENTENCE: _____

3. Amara has 5 stickers. Her friend gives her 9 more stickers. How many stickers does she have now?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A _____ B _____ C _____

LETTER I CIRCLED: _____ NUMBER SENTENCE: _____

LEVEL 2 · ADDITION TO 100

Read the story. Find the ONE equation that matches it and circle its letter. Then write the letter and the number sentence on the lines. How matching works is on page 4.

1. Nadia's class collected 34 cans on Monday and 25 cans on Tuesday. How many cans did they collect in all?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A $34 + 25 = 61$ B $34 + 25 = 59$ C $34 - 25 = 9$

LETTER I CIRCLED: _____ NUMBER SENTENCE: _____

2. Marcus read 42 pages on Saturday and 36 pages on Sunday. How many pages did he read altogether?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A $42 - 36 = 6$ B $42 + 36 = 80$ C $42 + 36 = 78$

LETTER I CIRCLED: _____ NUMBER SENTENCE: _____

3. The school library had 51 books on one cart and 28 books on another cart. How many books were there combined?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A _____ B _____ C _____

LETTER I CIRCLED: _____ NUMBER SENTENCE: _____

LEVEL 2 · MIXED, TO 100

Read the story. Find the ONE equation that matches it and circle its letter. Then write the letter and the number sentence on the lines. How matching works is on page 4.

1. A bakery made 45 muffins and 32 cookies. How many baked goods did they make?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A $45 + 32 = 77$ B $45 - 32 = 13$ C $45 + 32 = 79$

LETTER I CIRCLED: _____ NUMBER SENTENCE: _____

2. A store had 58 toy cars. 35 were sold in one day. How many toy cars are left?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A $35 - 58 = 23$ B $58 - 35 = 23$ C $58 + 35 = 93$

LETTER I CIRCLED: _____ NUMBER SENTENCE: _____

3. A classroom recycled 61 bottles and 27 cans. How many items did they recycle?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A _____ B _____ C _____

LETTER I CIRCLED: _____ NUMBER SENTENCE: _____

ANSWER KEY MATCH ANSWERS, ALL 6 SETS

Every letter and number sentence below is read straight off the same data that prints the problem — there is no second, hand-typed key to drift out of sync.

#	SET	CORRECT LETTER	NUMBER SENTENCE
1	Addition Within 20	B	$7 + 6 = 13$
2	Addition Within 20	C	$9 + 8 = 17$
3	Addition Within 20	A	$5 + 9 = 14$
4	Addition Within 20	B	$12 + 6 = 18$
5	Subtraction Within 20	C	$16 - 9 = 7$
6	Subtraction Within 20	A	$14 - 5 = 9$
7	Subtraction Within 20	B	$18 - 11 = 7$
8	Subtraction Within 20	C	$20 - 8 = 12$
9	Mixed, Within 20	A	$8 + 7 = 15$
10	Mixed, Within 20	B	$19 - 6 = 13$
11	Mixed, Within 20	C	$6 + 9 = 15$
12	Mixed, Within 20	A	$15 - 7 = 8$
13	Addition to 100	B	$34 + 25 = 59$
14	Addition to 100	C	$42 + 36 = 78$
15	Addition to 100	A	$51 + 28 = 79$
16	Addition to 100	B	$63 + 24 = 87$
17	Subtraction to 100	C	$78 - 45 = 33$
18	Subtraction to 100	A	$96 - 53 = 43$
19	Subtraction to 100	B	$88 - 36 = 52$

TRACKER

PRACTICE TRACKER



STUDENT

TEACHER

DATE

SET	ITEMS	SCORE	NOTES
Addition Within 20	4		
Subtraction Within 20	4		
Mixed, Within 20	4		
Addition to 100	4		
Subtraction to 100	4		
Mixed, to 100	4		



One complete kit for matching a word problem to the right equation: three within-20 sets, three to-100 sets, and the record-keeping to show it.

THREE STEPS

1 Start with Level 1

Within-20 addition (page 6), subtraction (page 7), then mixed (page 8). All three near-miss equations, none needing regrouping to think through.

2 Move to Level 2 once Level 1 is easy

Two-digit addition to 100 (page 9), subtraction (page 10), then mixed (page 11). No problem here needs carrying or borrowing to solve.

3 Record it, send the family page

Score each set on the tracker (page 13), roll the class up on page 14, and send the family page (page 16) home. A filled example is on page 15.

WHICH PAGE, WHEN

WHEN...	USE...
Learning the match format	How It Works, page 4, with a worked example
Addition only, within 20	Level 1 Addition, page 6
Subtraction only, within 20	Level 1 Subtraction, page 7
Both operations, within 20	Level 1 Mixed, page 8
Addition only, to 100, no regrouping	Level 2 Addition, page 9
Subtraction only, to 100, no regrouping	Level 2 Subtraction, page 10
Both operations, to 100	Level 2 Mixed, page 11
Checking answers	Answer key, page 12
Sending practice home	Family page, page 16

Everything inside (19 pages)

- **24 word problems** across **6 match sets** — 3 within 20, 3 to 100 — every problem paired with 3 equation choices, every choice checked in code
- **1 how-it-works page** with a fully worked, fully matched example
- **1 answer key, 1 tracker** (one student) and **1 class grid** (whole class), type-in or print
- **1 family page** with two home-practice problems, **1 filled example** (an invented student), **1 phrase bank**
- **1 binder cover** with spine label and six tabs

What matching checks, that writing does not

Solving a story and matching it to a printed equation checks whether a student reads the story correctly, separately from whether they can write a number sentence from a blank page. Page 4 explains the three choices before any child sees a worksheet.



THREE STEPS, EVERY PROBLEM

- 1 **Read the whole story**
Read it start to finish before looking at any of the three equations.
- 2 **Solve it your own way first**
Work it out on scratch paper or in your head, not by scanning the choices for a familiar-looking number.
- 3 **Find the ONE that matches, then check the other two**
Only one equation uses the story's numbers, operation and answer. The other two are close on purpose — know why before moving on.

Why two of the three are always wrong, on purpose

- **Wrong operation:** the same two numbers, added when the story needed subtracting, or the reverse — matching by number alone, not by story, picks this one.
- **Wrong result (addition) or transposed numbers (subtraction):** the right numbers, but an answer that is off by one or two, or written in the wrong order — see page 12.

A worked example, fully matched

1. Jasmine has 7 red balloons and 6 blue balloons. How many balloons does she have?

^A
 $7 + 6 = 15$

^B
 $7 + 6 = 13$
CIRCLED

^C
 $7 - 6 = 1$

LETTER I CIRCLED

B

NUMBER SENTENCE

$7 + 6 = 13$

A second worked example, subtraction

1. Mateo had 16 grapes. He ate 9 grapes. How many grapes does he have left?

^A
 $16 + 9 =$
25

^B
 $9 - 16 = 7$

^C
 $16 - 9 = 7$
CIRCLED

LETTER I CIRCLED

C

NUMBER SENTENCE

$16 - 9 = 7$

Try it together before the worksheets

Cover the three choices. Ask the story's question out loud and have the student answer it first. Then uncover the choices and ask which one says what they just said.

Printing, copying and the type-in fields

Every page prints clean in black and white; circle the letter with a pencil, or click a name line, a letter blank or a tracker cell to type into it. This is a PDF, not a slideshow or a word-processor file.



Read the story. Find the ONE equation that matches it and circle its letter. Then write the letter and the number sentence on the lines. How matching works is on page 4.

1. Jasmine has 7 red balloons and 6 blue balloons. How many balloons does she have?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A $7 + 6 = 15$

B $7 + 6 = 13$

C $7 - 6 = 1$

LETTER I CIRCLED

NUMBER SENTENCE

2. Theo picked 9 apples in the morning and 8 apples in the afternoon. How many apples did he pick in all?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A $9 - 8 = 1$

B $9 + 8 = 19$

C $9 + 8 = 17$

LETTER I CIRCLED

NUMBER SENTENCE

3. Amara has 5 stickers. Her friend gives her 9 more stickers. How many stickers does she have now?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A $5 + 9 = 14$

B $9 - 5 = 4$

C $5 + 9 = 16$

LETTER I CIRCLED

NUMBER SENTENCE

4. Diego counted 12 red cars and 6 blue cars in the parking lot. How many cars did he count?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A $12 + 6 = 20$

B $12 + 6 = 18$

C $12 - 6 = 6$

LETTER I CIRCLED

NUMBER SENTENCE





Read the story. Find the ONE equation that matches it and circle its letter. Then write the letter and the number sentence on the lines. How matching works is on page 4.

1. Nadia's class collected 34 cans on Monday and 25 cans on Tuesday. How many cans did they collect in all?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A

$$34 + 25 = 61$$

B

$$34 + 25 = 59$$

C

$$34 - 25 = 9$$

LETTER I CIRCLED

NUMBER SENTENCE

2. Marcus read 42 pages on Saturday and 36 pages on Sunday. How many pages did he read altogether?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A

$$42 - 36 = 6$$

B

$$42 + 36 = 80$$

C

$$42 + 36 = 78$$

LETTER I CIRCLED

NUMBER SENTENCE

3. The school library had 51 books on one cart and 28 books on another cart. How many books were there combined?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A

$$51 + 28 = 79$$

B

$$51 - 28 = 23$$

C

$$51 + 28 = 81$$

LETTER I CIRCLED

NUMBER SENTENCE

4. A garden had 63 tulips and 24 daisies. How many flowers were there in all?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A

$$63 + 24 = 89$$

B

$$63 + 24 = 87$$

C

$$63 - 24 = 39$$

LETTER I CIRCLED

NUMBER SENTENCE





Read the story. Find the ONE equation that matches it and circle its letter. Then write the letter and the number sentence on the lines. How matching works is on page 4.

1. A bakery made 45 muffins and 32 cookies. How many baked goods did they make?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A

$$45 + 32 = 77$$

B

$$45 - 32 = 13$$

C

$$45 + 32 = 79$$

LETTER I CIRCLED

NUMBER SENTENCE

2. A store had 58 toy cars. 35 were sold in one day. How many toy cars are left?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A

$$35 - 58 = 23$$

B

$$58 - 35 = 23$$

C

$$58 + 35 = 93$$

LETTER I CIRCLED

NUMBER SENTENCE

3. A classroom recycled 61 bottles and 27 cans. How many items did they recycle?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A

$$61 - 27 = 34$$

B

$$61 + 27 = 90$$

C

$$61 + 27 = 88$$

LETTER I CIRCLED

NUMBER SENTENCE

4. A zoo had 84 visitors in the morning. 52 visitors left by lunchtime. How many visitors were still there?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A

$$84 - 52 = 32$$

B

$$84 + 52 = 136$$

C

$$52 - 84 = 32$$

LETTER I CIRCLED

NUMBER SENTENCE





Every letter and number sentence below is read straight off the same data that prints the problem — there is no second, hand-typed key to drift out of sync.

#	SET	CORRECT LETTER	NUMBER SENTENCE
1	Addition Within 20	B	$7 + 6 = 13$
2	Addition Within 20	C	$9 + 8 = 17$
3	Addition Within 20	A	$5 + 9 = 14$
4	Addition Within 20	B	$12 + 6 = 18$
5	Subtraction Within 20	C	$16 - 9 = 7$
6	Subtraction Within 20	A	$14 - 5 = 9$
7	Subtraction Within 20	B	$18 - 11 = 7$
8	Subtraction Within 20	C	$20 - 8 = 12$
9	Mixed, Within 20	A	$8 + 7 = 15$
10	Mixed, Within 20	B	$19 - 6 = 13$
11	Mixed, Within 20	C	$6 + 9 = 15$
12	Mixed, Within 20	A	$15 - 7 = 8$
13	Addition to 100	B	$34 + 25 = 59$
14	Addition to 100	C	$42 + 36 = 78$
15	Addition to 100	A	$51 + 28 = 79$
16	Addition to 100	B	$63 + 24 = 87$
17	Subtraction to 100	C	$78 - 45 = 33$
18	Subtraction to 100	A	$96 - 53 = 43$
19	Subtraction to 100	B	$89 - 26 = 63$
20	Subtraction to 100	C	$67 - 24 = 43$
21	Mixed, to 100	A	$45 + 32 = 77$
22	Mixed, to 100	B	$58 - 35 = 23$
23	Mixed, to 100	C	$61 + 27 = 88$
24	Mixed, to 100	A	$84 - 52 = 32$

If a wrong letter was circled, what it usually means

- The **wrong-operation** distractor appears on all 24 problems — circling it means the two numbers were spotted but the operation the story needs was not.
- The **wrong-result** distractor appears on the 12 addition problems — circling it means the operation was right but the arithmetic slipped by one or two.
- The **transposed-numbers** distractor appears on the 12 subtraction problems — circling it means the numbers were written in the wrong order.





STUDENT

TEACHER

DATE

SET	ITEMS	SCORE	NOTES
Addition Within 20	4		
Subtraction Within 20	4		
Mixed, Within 20	4		
Addition to 100	4		
Subtraction to 100	4		
Mixed, to 100	4		
Total	24		

How to score it

Write the number matched correctly in Score. 24 problems in all across the six sets. A filled example is on page 15.

THIS STUDENT IS WORKING ON (READING THE STORY, TELLING OPERATIONS APART, THE TO-100 LEVEL, CHECKING A DISTRACTOR...)





STUDENT

WEEK OF

How to help at home, in three steps

- Read the whole story together before looking at any equation.
- Ask your child to solve it their own way first — scratch paper, fingers, or in their head.
- Then look at the choices together and ask why the other two are wrong, not just which one is right.

What to listen for while you talk

A child who reads the numbers but not the story will pick a “wrong operation” choice; a child who reads the story but rushes the arithmetic will pick a “wrong result” or “transposed” choice. How matching works, with a full example, is on page 4.

1. At the store, Dad bought 6 apples and 8 oranges. How many pieces of fruit did he buy?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A

$$6 + 8 = 16$$

B

$$6 + 8 = 14$$

C

$$8 - 6 = 2$$

LETTER I CIRCLED

NUMBER SENTENCE

2. Mom had 57 grapes on a plate. The kids ate 23 grapes. How many grapes are left on the plate?

SOLVE IT YOUR OWN WAY FIRST

A

$$57 + 23 = 80$$

B

$$23 - 57 = 34$$

C

$$57 - 23 = 34$$

LETTER I CIRCLED

NUMBER SENTENCE

PROBLEMS WE SOLVED TOGETHER

WHICH CHOICE WAS HARDEST TO RULE OUT

NOTE FROM THE TEACHER

NOTE FROM HOME



CAMILA'S TRACKER, INVENTED



Camila is invented; nothing on this page describes a real student. The blank tracker is on page 13.

STUDENT

Camila R. (an invented student)

TEACHER

Mr. Cho (invented)

SET	ITEMS	SCORE	NOTES
Addition Within 20	4	4	
Subtraction Within 20	4	3	
Mixed, Within 20	4	3	
Addition to 100	4	4	
Subtraction to 100	4	2	
Mixed, to 100	4	2	
Total	24	18	

How to read it

Camila matched **18 of 24** problems across all six sets. The lowest scores are on Subtraction Within 20 (3 of 4), Mixed, Within 20 (3 of 4), Subtraction to 100 (2 of 4), Mixed, to 100 (2 of 4). Level 2 Subtraction is her lowest of the six — revisiting the wrong-operation distractor on that set is a reasonable next step — every number here comes from the table above.

Two things the Notes column is for

- What you saw, in plain words: circled the wrong-operation distractor, matched by number alone without reading the story.
- What you did about it: reread the story out loud together, tried Level 1 again before returning to Level 2. Never a conclusion about the student — that is the team meeting's job.

The family note this tracker would produce

"This week we matched word problems to number sentences. Camila is matching within-20 problems independently and is still working on the two-digit set. At home, solve the problem together before looking at the choices." — every fact in it is a row of the table.





THANK YOU FOR USING THIS RESOURCE

Everything here was built for the teacher who has thirty minutes of planning time and a room where every student needs something different. Matching a story to the right equation checks the reading, not just the arithmetic — this file is built that way from the first page to the last. If it saved you an hour, it worked. If this helped, leaving feedback on TPT helps other teachers find it.

Leave a review and earn credits

Go to **My Purchases** on TPT and click **Provide Feedback**. You earn credits toward future purchases, and honest feedback tells me exactly what to build next. If something is missing or wrong, please use the **Ask a Question** tab first — I will fix it and send you the update free.

WHAT'S NEXT FROM THIS STORE

5TH - 2ND GRADE · MATH **ANCHOR CHART**

WORD PROBLEM KEY WORDS

Ten key words for addition and subtraction, honestly framed as clues and never as a rule, plus two sort activities and four practice sets of single-step word problems within 20. An answer key, a tracker, a class grid and a family page. Print, or type the names and trackers. PDF.

21 Pages **22 Word Problems** **10 Key Words** **Clues, Not Rules**

BRIGHT PATH SPED

Word Problem Key Words Anchor Chart and Worksheets

Ten key words for addition and subtraction, honestly framed as clues, not rules.

K-1ST PHONICS · SEGMENTING **3 FORMATS**

SOUND BOXES SEGMENTING CVC WORDS

Six short-vowel sets (a, e, i, o, u, and mixed), three pages each: dots and a picture, sound boxes with the same picture, and sound boxes with the word alone. A tracker, a class grid, a team note and a home page. Print, or type the names and tracker. PDF.

31 Pages **6 Sets** **3 Formats** **62 CVC Words**

BRIGHT PATH SPED

Sound Boxes Segmenting CVC Words Worksheets

Dots, boxes and word-only segmenting practice across the five short vowels.

K-2 WRITING · NOVEMBER **3 LEVELS**

NOVEMBER WRITING PICTURE PROMPTS

Twelve November picture prompts, three pages each: a dotted sentence starter to trace, the same starter to read and finish, and the picture with its word bank only. Word banks with pictures, a word wall in color and ink saver, a tracker, a class grid and a family page. Print, or type the names and tracker. PDF.

52 Pages **12 Prompts** **Word Banks + Pictures** **Sentence Starters**

BRIGHT PATH SPED

November Writing Picture Prompts with Word Bank and Sentence Starters

One nameable picture per prompt, three levels from tracing to writing.

SPECIAL EDUCATION · HANDWRITING **WORDS + SENTENCES**

HANDWRITING PRACTICE FOR OLDER STUDENTS

Ten CVC words, two per short vowel; each one traced with start dots and arrows, written from memory, then used in its own decodable sentence. Plain black-ink pictures, not baby art. A word wall, a tracker, a class grid and a family page. Print, or type the names and tracker. PDF.

45 Pages **10 CVC Words** **10 Decodable Sentences** **Tracker**

BRIGHT PATH SPED

Handwriting Practice for Older Students, CVC Words and Sentences

Adult-neutral tracing and sentence practice, no baby art anywhere.

Part of the K-2 Math Practice collection — new products in this collection are added regularly. Click **Follow** on the store page and TPT will email you when they go up.

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