

Translating Words Into Algebraic Expressions

ADDITION

Word or Phrase	Example	Numerical Expression
Sum of	The sum of -5 and 3	$-5+3=-2$
Added to	6 added to 3	$6+3=9$
More than	7 more than -3	$-3+7=4$
Increased by	2 increased by 5	$2+5=7$
Plus	3 plus 14	$3+14=17$
Greater than	9 greater than -1	$-1+9=8$

SUBTRACTION

Word or Phrase	Example	Numerical Expression
Difference between	The difference between 4 and -7	$4-(-7)=11$
Subtracted from	6 subtracted from 9	$9-6=3$
From ..., subtract ...	From 12 , subtract 8	$12-8=4$
Less	6 less 5	$6-5=1$
Less than	6 less than 5	$5-6=-1$
Decreased by	10 decreased by 3	$10-3=7$
Minus	4 minus 2	$4-2=2$
Smaller than		
Fewer than		
diminished by		

MULTIPLICATION

Word or Phrase	Example	Numerical Expression
Product of	The product of (-2) and 5	$(-2)(5)=-10$
Times	4 times 3	$(4)(3)=12$
Twice (meaning 2 times)	Twice 5	$2(5)=10$
Of (used with fractions)	One half of ten	$\frac{1}{2}(10)=5$
Percent of	12 percent of -6	$0.12(-6)=-1.92$
As much as	$\frac{2}{3}$ as much as 30	$\frac{2}{3}(30)=20$

DIVISION

Word or Phrase	Example	Numerical Expression
Quotient of	The quotient of 8 and 2	$8/2=4$
Divided by	21 divided by 3	$21/3=7$
Ratio of	The ratio of 2 and 3	$2/3$

EQUALITY

Substitute any of these words with an equals(=) sign:		
are	A result of	equals
is	yields is equal to	will be

UNKNOWN VARIABLE

If a quantity is unknown, substitute a letter such as “x” for an unknown amount, a number, a value.
Example: Three times a number minus six is equal to twenty seven MEANS $3x - 6 = 27$