

SHOULD I ADD OR SUBTRACT?

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These steps will help you decide whether a problem needs to be solved by addition or subtraction.

Step 1 **READ** the problem carefully
Underline the important words.

Step 2 **THINK** about these.

- 1 Are groups being **joined**?
If so, you need to **add** to find the total.
- 2 Are groups being **split** or is a group being **taken away**?
If so, you need to **subtract** to find how much is left.
- 3 Are you **comparing** the size of one group with another?
If so, **subtract** to find the difference.



Step 3 **CHECK** that your answer makes sense.

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Jess decided to study ladybirds for her insect project.

Use the steps on **page 1** to help you find the answers.

1

Two ladybirds had 7 spots on each wing.
How many spots are there altogether
on the four wings?



2

Lily ladybird has 10 spots.
Lana has 16 spots and Lucy has 14 spots.
How many spots are there on all three ladybirds?



3

Jess counted 68 ladybirds in a bush.
27 ladybirds flew away.
How many ladybirds were left?

4

On one leaf I counted 24 ladybirds,
on another leaf I counted 56.
How many more ladybirds were on the second leaf?