I'm not a bot

Fun math problems

These puzzles are very tricky (sorry in advance): Copyright © 2025 Rod Pierce October 29, 2024 Overall, this app is well-made, I don't hate anything about it except one thing. The pricing every month! It makes no sense, $50 for what?! When I first got the free trial and it was coming to and end, I didn't bother to end it because I knew, at least I thought I knew it was going to be atleast $10 every week, but until it paid by itself, $50 disappeared out of my bank account, I cancled the subscription but that did not matter the money was gone, I checked my purchases and it said the AdaptedMind subscription was $50! Please fix your pricing Adapted Mind. Continue reading Learn about Symmetry by solving Jigsaw Puzzles ... examples from Nature, Mathematics, Art and Engineering Why Jigsaws? See the University of Chicago research report: "Learning about spatial relationships boosts understanding of numbers" Copyright © 2024 Rod Pierce These are good puzzles to try when you are first getting into the world of puzzles Copyright © 2025 Rod Pierce We live in a remarkable era when we can bring customized learning experiences to our children with the click of a button. IXL Learning offers online educational material that is more than just math drill and spelling practice. As a member of the Homeschool Review Crew, I received a full annual membership to IXL for my daughter. We have access to a wide variety of topics such as Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies – even an Intro to Spanish! Practice makes perfect and repetition helps bring about mastery. That's the goal, and that's where IXL can help. With the help of interactive diagnostic exercises, recommendations will be given for your student. He'll be able to jump in and follow the prompts given in the various subjects and tabs to review and reinforce their knowledge in all the core subjects of any grade level. The grade levels range from Pre-K to 12th, depending on the subject. With a membership you have access to all grade levels, regardless of where the student has placed in the diagnostic questions. This allows you to adjust your child's learning level in every subject area. My children have often been at different grade levels for different subjects at any given time, so this feature makes the experience very customizable. 15 minutes a day is recommended. The student logs in and chooses the subject area and grade level they want to work on and begins answering a variety of questions. The IXL website tracks the amount of time, the number of correct and incorrect answers, the number of questions answered in each category, etc. How we used IXL – It was easy to set things up. This included my own parent account as well as my daughter's student account. She was rather excited to personalize her own account with an icon of her choosing and a secret word (password) of her own. I have full access to both the parent and student accounts, but she is able to easily log in on the student section herself each day. We are accessing the program from our desktop and laptop computers. (There is an app for the ipad available which would be great for when we are on-the-go.) Bekah first worked in the diagnostic section of the program, to help determine what grade level she she would need to work in the different subject areas. Answering a handful of questions in each of the categories gives the program enough information to recommend a starting place. I quickly learned that we can re-visit the diagnostics tab at any time, to help fine tune these recommendations. The recommendations for Bekah were pretty accurate, but there were times I wanted her to work on areas I felt she still needed reinforcement. There were also times I wanted her to challenge herself, so I was very happy to see that we could choose any grade level in any subject area. I mentioned this was a customizable program, right? I assigned my 12 year old daughter sections to work on for 15 minutes a day, 3 days a week. This was a supplement her schooling. I chose sections I feel she needed reinforcement or drill work. The checklists under each tab make it easy. The process is simple – Bekah clicks on the subject tab and grade level, clicks on the skill I've assigned her, then follows the prompts on the screen. Sometimes it's a simple questions with a multiple choice answer. Sometimes there is a passage to read with a question based on the reading. Some exercises ask her to highlight the text that has a mistake or states the answer to the question. Immediately she is given feedback, with encouraging words and more information to further her knowledge. When she answers incorrectly, she shown where she made her mistake and then a similar question will recycle through at a later time, giving her opportunity to learn and master. She much prefers the "great job!" messages, though. The learning is fun when you can collect prizes, right? Students collect coins and awards, giving a visual of how much they've accomplished. I am usually cautious about using programs that give awards and prizes, making it all a game, but I was pleased with how IXL handles this. The reward is there, in a subtle but highly effective manner. After her 15 minutes of assigned work, she was free to poke around and explore anything on the site she wished. She quickly gravitated to the Spanish tab. I have been impressed by how much she's picked up from the introduction all ready, even with no previous experience learning Spanish. As the parent, I receive emails informing me of her progress. They tell me how many minutes she's worked, what goals she accomplished, award certificates, etc. I can track her progress through charts and graphs provided on the parent side of the website. I really like this integration because it gives me current data. I can monitor how well my daughter is doing and make note of areas she needs work as well as celebrate victory, without looking over her shoulder every moment. What we thought – I am impressed with IXL Learning. They provide a great way to reinforce learning. I do not see it as a full curriculum, but a supplement that will enhance our homeschool. Their website gives us straight forward drill work. I like that it is not gimmicky or cartoonish, but is still presented in a colorful and interesting way. Many online supplements we've tried have either leaned toward the childish or the boring. Not so with IXL. I plan to have Bekah continue her time on the website a few days per week, following the same pattern we've started. It has added some nice variety to her school day. IXL is not just for homeschooling families, though. a membership to their site will give any parent, teacher or caregiver access to tools that will strengthen knowledge and ecducation of children of all ages in school settings of all sorts as well as at home. Facebook Twitter Pinterest YouTube Many families on the Review Crew are using IXL Learning in their homeschools. Click on the image below to see how it's working for them! Riddles are fun, but they can also be educational. All riddles provide opportunities for creative thinking and problem solving. However, math riddles take that to the next level. Our math riddles are perfect not only for family fun, but also prove valuable in educational venues, such as classrooms and camps. Our article begins with some relatively easy math riddles for kids. Then we share math riddles for middle school kids, some of which may prove challenging for older students and adults. Next, we have math riddles for adults, a selection perfect for parties or to use as icebreakers at work. The article ends with sections on hard and tricky math riddles. You might want to start with the easy ones in the first section and work up to the last section, building your skill as you go. Put your thinking caps on and get started! Math Riddles for Kids Riddles are fun for kids, but they can also be educational. Our collection of math riddles for kids provides a fun challenge perfect for the classroom, a day camp, or for family fun. Some are easy and some provide even the smartest kid a challenge. Which month has 28 days? All of them What number goes up and doesn't come back down? Your age If there are 4 apples and you take away 3, how many do you have? Three apples If eggs are $0.12 a dozen, how many eggs can you get for a dollar? 100 eggs, at one penny each How did the soccer fan know before the game that the score would be 0-0? The score is always 0-0 before the game. How many sides does a circle have? Two – the inside and the outside If you buy a rooster for the purpose of laying eggs and you expect to get three eggs each day for breakfast, how many eggs will you have after three weeks? None, because roosters do not lay eggs. If two's company and three's a crowd, what are four and five? 9 If you multiply this number by any other number, the answer will always be the same. What number is this? Zero If it took 6 people 9 hours to build a barn, how long would it take 12 people to build the same barn? None, because the barn is already built. What is the next number in the series? 7,645 5,764 4,576 6,457 because the last number is moved to the front to make the next number in the series. Tom was asked to paint the apartment number on plates for 100 apartments which means he will have to paint numbers 1 through 100. How many times will he paint the number 8? 20 times (8, 18, 28, 38, 48, 58, 68, 78, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 98) A farmer has 17 sheep and all but 9 die. How many are left? Nine What weighs more, a pound of iron or a pound of feathers? Both would weigh the same. If you can purchase 8 eggs for 26 cents, how many can you buy for a cent and a quarter? Eight What did one math book say to the other math book? Do you want to hear my problems? What did the triangle say to the circle? You're pointless. What is the maximum possible number of times you can subtract number 5 from number 25? Only once, is because when you subtract 5 from 25, it becomes number 20, then 15, etc. Math Riddles for Middle School Middle school kids know all of the basic math facts and are beginning to use them to logically solve math problems and riddles. Our selection of math riddles for middle school provide the perfect way to show a student's ability to reason and use logical thinking. A 300 ft. train is traveling 300 ft. per minute and must travel through a 300 ft. long tunnel. How long will it take the train to travel through the tunnel? Two minutes because it takes the front of the train one minute and the rest of the train will take two minutes to clear the tunnel. A grandmother, two mothers, and two daughters went to a baseball game together and bought one ticket each. How many tickets did they buy in total? Three tickets because the grandmother is the mother of the two daughters who are mothers. Tom is in charge of shipping and he can place 10 small boxes or 8 large boxes into a carton. A total of 96 boxes were sent in one shipment. The number of small boxes was less than large boxes. What is the total number of cartons he shipped? 11 cartons If a total of 96 boxes are shipped, then the large boxes in the cartons must be a multiple of 8, which means either 16 or 56 large boxes. Since there are more large boxes in the cartons then the small ones, the number of large boxes must be 56. The number of small boxes is reduced to 96 – 56 = 40. Therefore, the total number of cartons shipped can be figured out this way: 56/8 + 40/10 = 7 + 4 = 11 I am a three-digit number. My second digit is 4 times bigger than the third digit. My first digit is 3 less than my second digit. What number am I? 141 I add five to nine and get two. The answer is correct, but how? When it is 9 p.m., add 5 hours to it and you will get 2 p.m. When Josh was 8, his brother was half his age. Now that Josh is 14, how old is his brother? His brother is 10. Half of 8 is 4, so Josh's brother is 4 years younger. When Josh is 14, his brother is still 4 years younger, so he's 10. In an odd little town, was an odd little stream, with odd little fish in an odd little team. A stranger approached a local fisherman and asked him how much his odd little fish weighed. The odd little man replied, "All the fish in this stream weigh exactly 1/2 of a pound plus 1/2 of a fish. Isn't that odd?" How many pounds does an odd little fish weigh? One Leon works at the aquarium. When he tries to put each turtle in its own tank, he has one turtle too many. But if he puts two turtles per tank, he has one tank too many. How many turtles and how many tanks does Leon have? One If the zookeeper had 100 pairs of animals in her zoo and if two pairs of babies are born for each and every one of the original animals, and then sadly 23 animals don't survive, how many animals do you have left in total? 977 animals (100×2 = 200; 200+800 = 1000; 1000-23 = 977) If you place three matches on a table then tell a friend to add two more matches to make eight, how can he do so? Make a Roman numeral five out of two matches and add it to the three to make a Roman numeral eight. There is a clothing store in Smithville. The owner has devised his own method of pricing items. A vest costs $20, socks cost $25, a tie costs $15 and a blouse costs $30. Using the method, how much would a pair of underwear cost? $45 because the pricing method consists of charging $5 for each letter required to spell the item. When Mitch was 6 years old, his little sister, Lila, was half is age. If Mitch is 40 years old today, how old is Lila? She is 37 years old. If X is an odd number, when a letter is taken away from X and it becomes even. Which is that number? Seven (Seven-S=Even) A man is twice as old as his little sister. He is also half as old as their dad. Over a period of 50 years, the age of the sister will become half of their dad's age. What is the age of the man now? He is 50 years old. You are given 3 positive numbers. You can add these numbers and multiply them together. The result you get will be the same. Which are the numbers? 1, 2, and 3 I am a three-digit number. My tens digit is six more than my one's digit. My hundreds digit is eight less than my tens digit. What number am I? 193 If seven people meet each other and each shakes hands only once with each of the others, how many handshakes will there have been? Twenty-one How can you take 2 from 5 and leave 4? Remove the 2 letters F and E from the word FIVE and you have IV. Using only addition, how can you add eight 8's to get the number 1,000? 888 +88 +8 +8 +8 =1,000 What can you put between a 7 and an 8 so that the result is greater than a seven, but less than an eight? A decimal because 7.8 is greater than 7, but less than 8. Math Riddles for Adults Our math riddles for adults will provide a challenge for many of our readers. Take your time and think carefully; your first answer will probably be wrong if you are too quick. What appears to be the right answer frequently isn't. Be careful! How many times does the long hand of the clock pass the short hand between midnight one day and midnight the following day? As both hands are together at the starting time of midnight this does not count as a pass. 21 How can you make the following equation true by drawing only one straight line: 5+5+5=550 Can you figure it out? There are two ways to do so: Draw a line on the first plus sign to turn it into a 4. Change the equal symbol to a crossed-out equal symbol which means "not equal to." What number do you get when you multiply all of the numbers on a telephone's number pad? Zero, because any number multiplied by 0 will always equal 0. You go to the doctor because you are ill, and he prescribes you with three pills and tells you to take them every half hour. How long do the pills last you? An hour because the first pill doesn't take 30 minutes to take. Where can you add 2 to 11 and get 1? On a clock Once I'm 24. Twice I'm 20. Three times I'm inappropriate. What am I? The letter "X" In a lake, there is a patch of lily pads. Every day, the patch doubles in size. If it takes 48 days for the patch to cover the entire lake, how long would it take for the patch to cover half the lake? The patch doubles in size every day and so on the 47th day the patch will be half the size it is on the 48th day. An apple is 40 cents, a banana is 60 cents. and a grapefruit is 80 cents. How much is a pear? Forty cents, because the price of each fruit is calculated by multiplying the number of vowels by 20 cents. Anna wrote all the numbers from 300 to 400 on a piece of paper. How many times did she write the digit 3? She wrote it 120 times. How many bricks does it take to complete a building made of brick? Only one – the "last" one How many days are there in 4 years? The answer is 1461, because (365 x 4) + 1. One of the years is a leap year. A bat and a ball cost $1.10. The bat costs one dollar more than the ball. How much does the ball cost? The ball costs 5 cents, not 10 cents. If one dollar more than 10 cents is $1.10, then $1.10 + 10 cents is $1.20. Therefore, the ball costs 5 cents. Harry is 54 years old, and his mother, Anna, is 80. How many years ago was Anna three times the age of her son Harry? 41 years ago You have accidently left out the plug and are attempting to fill the bath with both taps full on. The hot tap takes 6 minutes to fill the bath. The cold tap takes 2 minutes and the water empties through the plug hole in 4 minutes. In how many minutes will the bath be filled? 2 minutes and 24 seconds The day before yesterday I was 21, and the next year, I will be 24. What day is my birthday? 31st December, because it must be on the 1st of January, when I turned 22 and so 21 the day before. As it is now a new year, I will be 23 this year and so 24 next year. If it were two hours later, it would be half as long until midnight as it would be if it were an hour later. What time is it now? 9 p.m. A man is walking down a street night at a constant pace. As he passes the street light, he notices that his shadow becomes longer. Does the top of his shadow move faster, slower, or the same when the shadow is longer than when it is shorter? This point maintains a constant speed, independent of the length of the shadow. Hard Math Riddles Put on your thinking caps! Many of these hard math riddles rely on your knowledge and remembrance of math facts. They are similar to the word problems you might have hated in middle and high school. Don't despair; you can get the answer if you stop and think. A piece of paper, pencil, and a calculator may help with some of these. John, Mark, and Henry are three brothers. Interestingly, their current age is prime. What's more interesting is that difference between their ages is also prime. How old are they? Mark is 2, John is 5, and Henry is 7. Age diff 7 – 2 = 5 is prime; 7 – 5 = 2 is prime; 5 – 2 = 3 is prime. Divide 20 by half and add 30, what do you get? Seventy, because 20 divided by ½ = 10 + 30 = 70. Joe has ten coins totaling $1.19. From these coins, he cannot make exact change for a dollar, half-dollar, quarter, dime, or nickel. What coins does he have? A half-dollar, a quarter, four dimes, and four pennies. There are twelve kids in a classroom. Six kids are wearing socks and 4 are wearing shoes. Three kids are wearing both. How many have bare feet? Five kids have bare feet. There are 25 red balls, 47 green balls. and 3 blue balls in a basket. There is a blind man. What is the minimum number of balls that the blind man has to pick to make sure that there are at least 2 balls of different colors? 48 balls. There is a small chance he may pick up 47 green balls in a row. One is to three as three is to five and five is to four and four is the magic number. What is the pattern? letters in it. (If you try more numbers, they will always come back to the number four, so four is the magic number.) Nathan has 8 bricks. Seven of them weigh the same amount and one is slightly heavier. Using a balance scale, how can Nathan find the heavier brick in two weighings? First, he splits them in to piles of 3, 3, and 2 bricks. Then he weighs both groups of 3 with each other. If they balance, he knows the brick is one of the 2 not-weighed bricks and he can weigh them to find the heaver one. If the stacks of 3 bricks do not balance, he will weigh 2 of the 3 bricks. If they balance, he will know the brick left not weighed is heavier, or if they do not balance, he will find the heavier one. Sally and Sarah were preparing to have a water balloon fight. "No Fair" cried Sally, "You have 3 times as many as I do!" Sarah said "Fine!" and gave Sally 10 more balloons. "Still not fair!" argued Sally, "You still have twice as many as I do." How many more balloons must Sarah give Sally for them to have the same number? Sarah must give Sally another 20 water balloons, giving them each 60. Sally started with 30 water balloons and Sarah with 90. Two travelers spend from 12 o'clock to 6 o'clock walking along a level road, up a hill, and back again. Their pace is 4 mph on the level, 3 mph uphill, and 6 mph downhill. How far do they walk and at what time do they reach the top of the hill? They walk 4 miles and reach the top of the hill at half past three. Tricky Math Riddles Our article ends with tricky math riddles to really get your brain going! These are fun to share with others, because few people have heard all of them and the first and most apparent answer is usually wrong. They work well at a party, because many of the answers generate laughter. Two people in front of two people, two people behind two people, and two people beside two people. How many people are there? Four A certain number has three digits. The sum of the three digits equals 36 times this number. Seven times the left digit plus 9 is equal to 5 times the sum of the two other digits. 8 times the second digit minus 9 is equal to the sum of the first and third. What is the number? 324 A duck was given $9, a spider was given $36, a bee was given $27. Based on this information, how much money would be given to a cat? $18 ($4.50 per leg) A man dies of old age on his 25th birthday. How is this possible? He was born on February, 29th. A nonstop train leaves Moscow for Leningrad at 60 mph. Another nonstop train leaves Leningrad for Moscow at 40 mph. How far apart are the trains 1 hour before they pass each other? 100 miles (60+40) Add me to myself and multiply by 4. Divide me by 8 and you will have me once more. What number am I? Any number Can you arrange four nines to make it equal to 100? 99+9/9 = 100 I am a number with a couple of friends, quarter a dozen, and you'll find me again. What am I? Three I am a three-digit number. My tens digit is five more than my one's digit. My hundreds digit is eight less than my tens digit. What number am I? 194 I am four times as old as my daughter. In 20 years, I shall be twice as old as her. How old are we now? I am 40 and my daughter is 10. I asked a girl how old she was. She said, "In 2 years I will be twice as old as I was 5 years ago." How old is she? 12 If you're 8 feet away from a door and with each move you advance half the distance to the door. How many moves will it take to reach the door? You will never reach the door, because it will always be half the distance, no matter how small. In a pond, there are some flowers with some bees hovering over them. How many flowers and bees are there if both the following statements are true: If each bee lands on a flower, one bee doesn't get a flower. If two bees share each flower, there is one flower left out.4 bees and 3 flowers Janie's friends were chipping in to buy her a wedding shower present. At first, 10 friends chipped in, but 2 of them dropped out. Each of the 8 had to chip in another dollar to bring the amount back up. How much money did they plan to collect? $40 (10 at $4, or 8 at $5) There are several books on a bookshelf. If one book is the 4th from the left and 6th from the right, how many books are on the shelf? 9 books There are two ducks in front of two other ducks. And, there are two ducks behind two other ducks. There are two ducks beside two other ducks. How many ducks are there? 4 ducks (in a square) What 3 positive numbers give the same result when multiplied and added together? 1, 2, and 3 What is the value of 1/2 of 2/3 of 3/4 of 4/5 of 5/6 of 6/7 of 7/8 of 8/9 of 9/10 of 1000? 100 When John was six years old, he hammered a nail into his favorite tree to mark how tall he was. Ten years later at age sixteen, John returned to see how much higher the nail was. If the tree grew by five centimeters each year, how much higher would the nail be? The nail would be at the same height since trees grow at their tops. When my father was 31 and I was 8. Now he is twice as old as me. How old am I? The difference in age is 23 years, so I must be 23 if my father is twice as old as me. Well, there you have it; a comprehensive list of math riddles for just about everyone. At this point, you should either be feeling extremely intelligent, or ready to go back to elementary school math. However, remember you can use these math riddles on your friends and appear intelligent, because you already know the answers. Have fun! Susan majored in English with a double minor in Humanities and Business at Arizona State University and earned a Master's degree in Educational Administration from Liberty University. She taught grades four through twelve in both public and private schools. Subjects included English, U.S. and world history and geography, math, earth and physical science, Bible, information technologies, and creative writing. Susan has been freelance writing for over ten years, during which time she has written and edited books, newspaper articles, biographies, book reviews, guidelines, neighborhood descriptions for realtors, Power Point presentations, resumes, and numerous other projects. Read full bio