



The Case of the Missing Championship Ball

Grade 1 math · Addition, Place value, Skip counting, Subtraction, Missing addends · Reading level grades 1-2

Detective: _____ Date: _____

The big game is today! But someone took the gold championship soccer ball from the clubhouse. The team mascot is very sad. We must solve the math puzzles and find the soccer thief!

1. Solve each math problem. The answer is a number, and the letter beside it is what that number stands for.
2. In the clue boxes, write that letter in every box showing the same number, then read the secret clue.
3. Use each clue to cross suspects off the list. The one suspect left at the end is the culprit!

My answer: the cleat thief is _____

Possible suspects

Cross off a row as each clue rules it out. The one left at the end is the culprit.

NAME	SUPER SKILL	LUCKY GEAR	KICK FOOT	HAIR STYLE	BIG FEAR
Bukayo	fast sprint	glow gloves	left-footed kick	buzzed hair	loud whistle
Alisson	super kick	neon socks	left-footed kick	high ponytail	muddy grass
Kevin	super kick	starry headband	left-footed kick	spiked hair	muddy grass
Bruno	mega header	glow gloves	right-footed kick	buzzed hair	loud whistle
Luka	spin dribble	starry headband	left-footed kick	buzzed hair	loud whistle
Erling	spin dribble	glow gloves	left-footed kick	buzzed hair	muddy grass
Jack	high jump	golden cleats	left-footed kick	buzzed hair	loud whistle
Mason	fast sprint	golden cleats	right-footed kick	spiked hair	muddy grass
Sam	super kick	silver guards	left-footed kick	buzzed hair	red card
Declan	spin dribble	glow gloves	right-footed kick	buzzed hair	red card
Mo	high jump	glow gloves	right-footed kick	high ponytail	red card
Son	super kick	neon socks	right-footed kick	high ponytail	red card
Kyle	super kick	neon socks	left-footed kick	high ponytail	red card
Reece	fast sprint	golden cleats	left-footed kick	buzzed hair	loud whistle
Jordan	spin dribble	golden cleats	left-footed kick	buzzed hair	loud whistle
Leo	mega header	silver guards	left-footed kick	high ponytail	loud whistle
Phil	super kick	glow gloves	left-footed kick	buzzed hair	muddy grass
Cole	mega header	glow gloves	left-footed kick	buzzed hair	loud whistle
Virgil	fast sprint	glow gloves	right-footed kick	buzzed hair	loud whistle
Raheem	high jump	starry headband	left-footed kick	buzzed hair	loud whistle
Marcus	super kick	starry headband	left-footed kick	buzzed hair	red card

CLUE 1 Addition

Coach Ben counts the practice cones. We add the red cones and yellow cones to find the clue.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in every clue box that shows the same number.

T																T
18	20	7	3	8	10	10	11	8	15	19	9	7	12	15	9	18

20	11	3	7	6	9	10	19	7	15	2	10	7	11	18	12

$12 + 6 = \square \rightarrow$ T	$5 + 14 = \square \rightarrow$ D	$5 + 5 = \square \rightarrow$ L	
$1 + 2 = \square \rightarrow$ V	$1 + 1 = \square \rightarrow$ C	$11 + 9 = \square \rightarrow$ H	$2 + 7 = \square \rightarrow$ O
$5 + 6 = \square \rightarrow$ A	$4 + 2 = \square \rightarrow$ G	$9 + 3 = \square \rightarrow$ S	$8 + 7 = \square \rightarrow$ N
$3 + 4 = \square \rightarrow$ E	$2 + 6 = \square \rightarrow$ I		

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Place value

We look at the boxes of jerseys. There are tens and ones. The total number unlocks the locker.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in every clue box that shows the same number.

T																			T
13	68	75	23	29	78	11	11	11	68	61	41	11	78	87	75	55	13		

			T				
55	61	61	13	21	73	84	21

What number has 1 ten and 3 ones?

→

T

What number has 8 tens and 4 ones?

→

C

What number has 4 tens and 1 one?

→

W

What number has 5 tens and 5 ones?

→

F

What number has 8 tens and 7 ones?

→

L

What number has 6 tens and 8 ones?

→

H

What number has 2 tens and 9 ones?

→

R

What number has 2 tens and 1 one?

→

K

What number has 6 tens and 1 one?

→

O

What number has 1 ten and 1 one?

→

S

What number has 7 tens and 8 ones?

→

A

What number has 2 tens and 3 ones?

→

G

What number has 7 tens and 3 ones?

→

I

What number has 7 tens and 5 ones?

→

E

Scratch space:

CLUE 3 Skip counting

We count the soccer balls in the bags by twos. Skip counting gets us to the next spot fast.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in every clue box that shows the same number.

T																	
100	8	26	15	25	42	42	39	25	6	60	39	6	21	60	120	45	39
								T									
42	120	12	55	80	8	25	16	100	42	26							

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, __, 110, 120 → **T**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, __, 42, 45 → **A**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, __, 28, 30 → **E**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, __, 15, 18 → **U**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, __, 20, 25 → **V**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, __, 8, 10 → **N**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, __, 60, 65 → **D**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, __, 50, 55 → **M**

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, __, 130, 140 → **O**

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, __, 70, 80 → **R**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, __, 30, 35 → **I**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, __, 24, 27 → **F**

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, __, 90, 100 → **W**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, __, 45, 48 → **L**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, __, 10, 12 → **H**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, __, 18, 20 → **S**

Scratch space:

CLUE 4

Subtraction

The mascot kicked some water bottles away. Subtract the lost bottles to see what remains.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in every clue box that shows the same number.

W																
9	11	2	6	18	4	19	16	14	11	10	3	1	7	6	10	13

12	18	5	5	11	19	7	16	15	10

$17 - 8 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{W}$

$18 - 5 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{T}$

$17 - 2 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{I}$

$20 - 2 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{U}$

$6 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{Z}$

$19 - 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{A}$

$13 - 9 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{N}$

$11 - 5 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{O}$

$13 - 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{R}$

$13 - 2 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{E}$

$5 - 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{F}$

$3 - 2 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{S}$

$20 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{D}$

$15 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{V}$

$8 - 5 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{Y}$

$14 - 2 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{B}$

$9 - 2 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{H}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 5**Missing addends - the last clue**

We need ten shin guards on the rack. We only have six. How many more do we need to find?

First solve each problem. Then find each answer in the numbered list below and cross that sentence out. One sentence will be left - that is exactly what the villain did!

Step 1 - solve these:

$8 + \underline{\quad} = 10$

$2 + \underline{\quad} = 12$

$9 + \underline{\quad} = 16$

$5 + \underline{\quad} = 17$

$4 + \underline{\quad} = 12$

$5 + \underline{\quad} = 14$

$9 + \underline{\quad} = 13$

$6 + \underline{\quad} = 7$

$8 + \underline{\quad} = 11$

$7 + \underline{\quad} = 18$

$9 + \underline{\quad} = 15$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain makes a super kick, then fixes a starry headband.
2. The villain uses a spin dribble, then fixes a starry headband.
3. The villain makes a super kick, then pulls up neon socks.
4. The villain does a mega header, then pulls up neon socks.
5. The villain does a mega header, then shows off glow gloves.
6. The villain makes a super kick, then taps silver guards.
7. The villain starts a fast sprint, then shows off glow gloves.
8. The villain makes a high jump, then pulls up neon socks.
9. The villain makes a high jump, then shines golden cleats.
10. The villain makes a high jump, then fixes a starry headband.
11. The villain makes a super kick, then shines golden cleats.
12. The villain makes a high jump, then taps silver guards.

Answer Key

The Case of the Missing Championship Ball

Culprit: Cole

mega header · glow gloves · left-footed kick · buzzed hair · loud whistle

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 17 → Clue 2 12 → Clue 3 5 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Addition): "THE VILLAIN DOES NOT HAVE GOLDEN CLEATS"

$12 + 6 = 18$ (T) · $5 + 14 = 19$ (D) · $5 + 5 = 10$ (L) · $1 + 2 = 3$ (V) · $1 + 1 = 2$ (C) · $11 + 9 = 20$ (H) · $2 + 7 = 9$ (O) · $5 + 6 = 11$ (A) · $4 + 2 = 6$ (G) · $9 + 3 = 12$ (S) · $8 + 7 = 15$ (N) · $3 + 4 = 7$ (E) · $2 + 6 = 8$ (I)

Clue 2 (Place value): "THE GRASS SHOWS A LEFT FOOT KICK"

What number has 1 ten and 3 ones? = 13 (T) · What number has 8 tens and 4 ones? = 84 (C) · What number has 4 tens and 1 one? = 41 (W) · What number has 5 tens and 5 ones? = 55 (F) · What number has 8 tens and 7 ones? = 87 (L) · What number has 6 tens and 8 ones? = 68 (H) · What number has 2 tens and 9 ones? = 29 (R) · What number has 2 tens and 1 one? = 21 (K) · What number has 6 tens and 1 one? = 61 (O) · What number has 1 ten and 1 one? = 11 (S) · What number has 7 tens and 8 ones? = 78 (A) · What number has 2 tens and 3 ones? = 23 (G) · What number has 7 tens and 3 ones? = 73 (I) · What number has 7 tens and 5 ones? = 75 (E)

Clue 3 (Skip counting): "THE VILLAIN RAN FROM A LOUD WHISTLE"

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, __, 110, 120 = 100 (T) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, __, 42, 45 = 39 (A) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, __, 28, 30 = 26 (E) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, __, 15, 18 = 12 (U) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, __, 20, 25 = 15 (V) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, __, 8, 10 = 6 (N) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, __, 60, 65 = 55 (D) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, __, 50, 55 = 45 (M) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, __, 130, 140 = 120 (O) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, __, 70, 80 = 60 (R) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, __, 30, 35 = 25 (I) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, __, 24, 27 = 21 (F) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, __, 90, 100 = 80 (W) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, __, 45, 48 = 42 (L) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, __, 10, 12 = 8 (H) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, __, 18, 20 = 16 (S)

Clue 4 (Subtraction): "WE FOUND A VERY SHORT BUZZED HAIR"

$17 - 8 = 9$ (W) · $18 - 5 = 13$ (T) · $17 - 2 = 15$ (I) · $20 - 2 = 18$ (U) · $6 - 1 = 5$ (Z) · $19 - 3 = 16$ (A) · $13 - 9 = 4$ (N) · $11 - 5 = 6$ (O) · $13 - 3 = 10$ (R) · $13 - 2 = 11$ (E) · $5 - 3 = 2$ (F) · $3 - 2 = 1$ (S) · $20 - 1 = 19$ (D) · $15 - 1 = 14$ (V) · $8 - 5 = 3$ (Y) · $14 - 2 = 12$ (B) · $9 - 2 = 7$ (H)

Clue 5 (Missing addends): surviving statement is box 5 → Cole

$8 + \underline{\quad} = 10 = 2$ · $2 + \underline{\quad} = 12 = 10$ · $9 + \underline{\quad} = 16 = 7$ · $5 + \underline{\quad} = 17 = 12$ · $4 + \underline{\quad} = 12 = 8$ · $5 + \underline{\quad} = 14 = 9$ · $9 + \underline{\quad} = 13 = 4$ · $6 + \underline{\quad} = 7 = 1$ · $8 + \underline{\quad} = 11 = 3$ · $7 + \underline{\quad} = 18 = 11$ · $9 + \underline{\quad} = 15 = 6$