



The Great Cupcake Caper

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

Detective: _____ Date: _____

The big surprise party for our spelling bee winner is about to start! But oh no! The giant golden-frosted trophy cupcake is missing from the main table! We must look for clues and find out who took the sweet prize.

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 Cupcake Bandit is _____

Possible suspects

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

NAME	SPELLING SKILL	PARTY TRICK	WRITING HAND	FROSTING CRUMBS	PARTY SOUND
Robby	rhyme jump	sparkler wave	right handed writer	yellow hair	loud balloons
Timmy	double letter skip	sparkler wave	left handed writer	pink hair	loud party horns
Billy	double letter skip	balloon pop	left handed writer	pink hair	loud balloons
Jenny	silent e blast	sparkler wave	right handed writer	pink hair	loud party horns
Abby	phonics shout	confetti throw	right handed writer	yellow hair	loud balloons
Tommy	phonics shout	ribbon twirl	left handed writer	yellow hair	loud cheers
Sally	rhyme jump	ribbon twirl	right handed writer	yellow hair	loud balloons
Lily	phonics shout	sparkler wave	right handed writer	blue hair	loud balloons
Gaby	prefix dash	ribbon twirl	left handed writer	blue hair	loud party horns
Cody	prefix dash	ribbon twirl	right handed writer	pink hair	loud cheers
Molly	phonics shout	balloon pop	right handed writer	yellow hair	loud balloons
Rudy	prefix dash	sparkler wave	right handed writer	pink hair	loud balloons
Danny	silent e blast	confetti throw	left handed writer	blue hair	loud party horns
Suzy	silent e blast	balloon pop	right handed writer	yellow hair	loud balloons
Willy	prefix dash	sparkler wave	left handed writer	blue hair	loud cheers
Max	prefix dash	confetti throw	right handed writer	blue hair	loud cheers
Penny	rhyme jump	balloon pop	left handed writer	yellow hair	loud balloons
Toby	silent e blast	balloon pop	left handed writer	blue hair	loud party horns
Katy	double letter skip	ribbon twirl	left handed writer	pink hair	loud balloons
Zoe	double letter skip	ribbon twirl	left handed writer	yellow hair	loud party horns
Benny	prefix dash	confetti throw	right handed writer	yellow hair	loud cheers

CLUE 1 **Addition**

We need to count the balloons on the gym wall. Let us add the red ones and the blue ones to find our first secret clue.

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

T 11 15 7	17 10 20 19 12	T 11	19 13 7 16	20 13	T 11	19 13
T 11 15 7	18 12 17 17 13 20	T 11 5 12 18 2				

$6 + 5 = \square \rightarrow$ T	$8 + 7 = \square \rightarrow$ H	$7 + 13 = \square \rightarrow$ N	$2 + 5 = \square \rightarrow$ E
$4 + 9 = \square \rightarrow$ O	$6 + 4 = \square \rightarrow$ A	$3 + 2 = \square \rightarrow$ W	$8 + 9 = \square \rightarrow$ B
$6 + 6 = \square \rightarrow$ I	$1 + 1 = \square \rightarrow$ L	$14 + 5 = \square \rightarrow$ D	$9 + 9 = \square \rightarrow$ R
$4 + 12 = \square \rightarrow$ S			

Scratch space:

CLUE 2

Subtraction

Someone popped some party balloons by mistake. Subtract the popped ones from the total to get our next clue.

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

T						T						T						
13	16	6	11	17	15	13	6	17	19	1	6	18	13	16	6	15	17	
				T					T									
17	15	5	16	13	16	7	12	18	13	3	1	10	17	15	4	4	9	6

$17 - 4 = \square \rightarrow \text{[T]}$

$12 - 3 = \square \rightarrow \text{[L]}$

$7 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \text{[E]}$

$17 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \text{[H]}$

$20 - 2 = \square \rightarrow \text{[D]}$

$10 - 5 = \square \rightarrow \text{[G]}$

$20 - 5 = \square \rightarrow \text{[I]}$

$7 - 4 = \square \rightarrow \text{[O]}$

$8 - 7 = \square \rightarrow \text{[S]}$

$15 - 4 = \square \rightarrow \text{[W]}$

$20 - 8 = \square \rightarrow \text{[N]}$

$11 - 7 = \square \rightarrow \text{[B]}$

$18 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \text{[R]}$

$11 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \text{[C]}$

$20 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \text{[U]}$

$12 - 5 = \square \rightarrow \text{[A]}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 3

Word problems

Our friend has a word puzzle about spelling bee flashcards. Solve it to unlock the secret desk drawer.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in the boxes to fill in the missing word.

Someone scared the villain off with L L L S .

21 12 24 33 10 16 21 21 12 12 22

Spelling Bee Judge lined up 7 rows of 3 spelling card. How many spelling card in all?

Answer: → L

There were 36 party hat. 3 were used up. How many party hat are left?

Answer: → D

Spelling Bee Judge lined up 4 rows of 4 gold star. How many gold star in all?

Answer: → A

Spelling Bee Judge found 9 gold star yesterday and 13 more today. How many gold star in all?

Answer: → N

Spelling Bee Judge lined up 2 rows of 12 shiny balloon. How many shiny balloon in all?

Answer: → U

There were 22 shiny balloon. 10 were used up. How many shiny balloon are left?

Answer: → O

There were 15 mini cupcake. 5 were used up. How many mini cupcake are left?

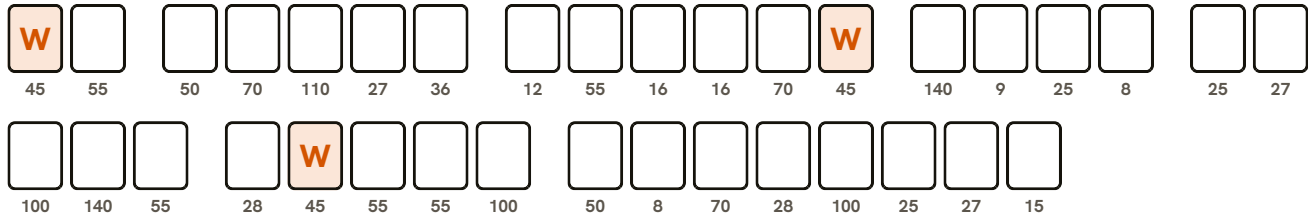
Answer: → B

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Skip counting

The cupcakes are lined up in neat rows on the desk. Let us skip count them to find the hidden box under the table.

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



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

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

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, __, 150, 160 → **H**

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

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, __, 14, 16 → **Y**

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

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, __, 120, 130 → **U**

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

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

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, __, 39, 42 → **D**

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

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

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, __, 30, 32 → **S**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, __, 18, 21 → **G**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, __, 12, 15 → **A**

Scratch space:

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

The spelling banner had ten letters but some fell off the wall. Find the missing number to open the box.

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:

$6 + \underline{\quad} = 17$

$6 + \underline{\quad} = 13$

$2 + \underline{\quad} = 3$

$5 + \underline{\quad} = 8$

$7 + \underline{\quad} = 13$

$5 + \underline{\quad} = 9$

$1 + \underline{\quad} = 10$

$1 + \underline{\quad} = 6$

$2 + \underline{\quad} = 14$

$9 + \underline{\quad} = 19$

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

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain uses a silent e blast, then pops a giant balloon.
2. The villain does a loud phonics shout, then does a quick ribbon twirl.
3. The villain uses a silent e blast, then throws sparkly confetti.
4. The villain uses a silent e blast, then does a quick ribbon twirl.
5. The villain does a fast prefix dash, then steals a giant cake slice.
6. The villain does a loud phonics shout, then waves a glowing sparkler.
7. The villain does a loud phonics shout, then pops a giant balloon.
8. The villain does a loud phonics shout, then throws sparkly confetti.
9. The villain does a loud phonics shout, then steals a giant cake slice.
10. The villain takes a double letter skip, then waves a glowing sparkler.
11. The villain makes a quick rhyme jump, then waves a glowing sparkler.
12. The villain takes a double letter skip, then throws sparkly confetti.

Answer Key

The Great Cupcake Caper

Culprit: Abby

phonics shout · confetti throw · right handed writer · yellow hair · loud balloons

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 15 → Clue 2 9 → Clue 3 6 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Addition): "THE BANDIT DOES NOT DO THE RIBBON TWIRL"

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

Clue 2 (Subtraction): "THE WRITER USED THEIR RIGHT HAND TO SCRIBBLE"

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

Clue 3 (Word problems): "LOUD BALLOONS"

Spelling Bee Judge lined up 7 rows of 3 spelling card. How many spelling card in all? = 21 (L) · There were 36 party hat. 3 were used up. How many party hat are left? = 33 (D) · Spelling Bee Judge lined up 4 rows of 4 gold star. How many gold star in all? = 16 (A) · Spelling Bee Judge found 9 gold star yesterday and 13 more today. How many gold star in all? = 22 (N) · Spelling Bee Judge lined up 2 rows of 12 shiny balloon. How many shiny balloon in all? = 24 (U) · There were 22 shiny balloon. 10 were used up. How many shiny balloon are left? = 12 (O) · There were 15 mini cupcake. 5 were used up. How many mini cupcake are left? = 10 (B)

Clue 4 (Skip counting): "WE FOUND YELLOW HAIR IN THE SWEET FROSTING"

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, __, 50, 55 = 45 (W) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, __, 30, 35 = 25 (I) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, __, 150, 160 = 140 (H) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, __, 60, 65 = 55 (E) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, __, 14, 16 = 12 (Y) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, __, 10, 12 = 8 (R) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, __, 120, 130 = 110 (U) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, __, 18, 20 = 16 (L) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, __, 60, 70 = 50 (F) · 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, __, 39, 42 = 36 (D) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, __, 30, 33 = 27 (N) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, __, 80, 90 = 70 (O) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, __, 30, 32 = 28 (S) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, __, 18, 21 = 15 (G) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, __, 12, 15 = 9 (A)

Clue 5 (Missing addends): surviving statement is box 8 → Abby

$6 + \underline{\quad} = 17 = 11$ · $6 + \underline{\quad} = 13 = 7$ · $2 + \underline{\quad} = 3 = 1$ · $5 + \underline{\quad} = 8 = 3$ · $7 + \underline{\quad} = 13 = 6$ · $5 + \underline{\quad} = 9 = 4$ · $1 + \underline{\quad} = 10 = 9$ · $1 + \underline{\quad} = 6 = 5$ · $2 + \underline{\quad} = 14 = 12$ · $9 + \underline{\quad} = 19 = 10$ · $8 + \underline{\quad} = 10 = 2$