Addition and Subtraction Clue Words

When approaching word problems, there are some **key phrases** and **words** you should know that help you to identify if the problem is asking for addition or subtraction!

For addition, these are:	For subtraction, these are:
… how many altogether	… how many more
… how much altogether	… how much more
… total	… difference
… in all	… how many are left
… sum	… how much is left

Underline the key phrase or word and circle if the problem asks for addition or subtraction.

e.g.| Gemma saw 31 butterflies when she was walking. She stopped and saw 5 ladybirds. How many insects did she see <u>altogether</u>? (add) subtract

1| Kelvin picked up 22 rocks. He then saw 7 new rocks and picked them up too. What is the total number of rocks Kelvin found? add subtract

2| Moana threw the ball 30 metres. Megan threw the ball 27 metres. What was the difference between their throws? add subtract

3| Shirley played 8 games with his basketball team. The team is playing 20 games this season. How many more games with Shirley play? add subtract

4| Mei Hsin saw a slice of ginger crunch for $5.00 and a brownie for $4.50. If she purchased both items, what would the sum be? add subtract

5| Ollie wants to do 30 cartwheels. He has already done 24. How many cartwheels are left for Ollie to do? add subtract

6| Yesterday, Janine saw 13 birds from her window. Today she saw 16 birds. How many birds did she see in all? add subtract

7| Jacob bought a pencil for $1.50. He also bought an eraser for $2.00. How much money did he spend altogether? add subtract

8| Amanda bought a book that cost $19.95. Her friend, Layanthi, bought a book that cost $4.95. How much more did Amanda spend? add subtract

9| There are 15 Kea at the nature park. There are also 11 parrots. How many more Kea are there? add subtract