Rules for Story Problems

Use Addition (+) when you see the words:	Use Subtraction (-) when you see the words:
How many	How many left
How many in all	How many left over
How many all together	How many more
Add the items	How many less
Total number	How many fewer
Do they have enough	Find the difference
Is there enough	Have left
The sum of	How many remaining

Read the problem.

1. What do they want to know? HINT: (look in the last

sentence)

- 2. Is it an addition or subtraction problem?
- 3. Draw (show) what you know.
- 4. Solve the problem. Be sure to use number sense.
- 5. Check for a reasonable answer.
- 6. Can you do it another way?
- 7. Is there extra information?