What Do Fewer Mean In Math



What Do Fewer Mean in Math? A Comprehensive Guide

Introduction:

Ever stumbled upon a word problem that leaves you scratching your head, especially when it throws in words like "fewer"? Understanding mathematical vocabulary is crucial for problem-solving success. This comprehensive guide will demystify the meaning of "fewer" in a mathematical context, providing clear explanations, examples, and helpful tips to improve your understanding of comparative quantities. We'll explore how "fewer" differs from other comparative terms and show you how to confidently tackle problems involving this seemingly simple yet often misunderstood word. Get ready to master the art of comparing quantities!

H2: Understanding the Meaning of "Fewer"

In mathematics, "fewer" signifies a smaller quantity when comparing two discrete amounts. It's used exclusively with countable items – things you can individually count. Think apples, oranges, cars, or students. Crucially, "fewer" always indicates a subtraction or a difference between two numbers. It highlights the deficit between the larger and smaller quantity.

H3: Fewer vs. Less: A Crucial Distinction

This is where many encounter confusion. While both words denote a smaller amount, they apply to different types of quantities:

Fewer: Used for countable nouns (discrete quantities). Example: "There are fewer apples in this basket than in that one."

Less: Used for uncountable nouns (continuous quantities). Example: "There is less water in this glass than in that one."

H4: Recognizing "Fewer" in Word Problems

Word problems often utilize "fewer" to test your understanding of subtraction and comparison. Look for keywords like:

Difference: "Find the difference between..."
How many less: "How many fewer...?"
Compared to: "...compared to..."
Remaining: "...remaining after..."

These phrases signal that you need to calculate the difference, indicating a comparison using "fewer."

H2: Practical Examples Illustrating "Fewer"

Let's solidify our understanding with some practical examples:

Example 1: John has 15 marbles, and Sarah has 8 marbles. How many fewer marbles does Sarah have than John?

Solution: 15 (John's marbles) - 8 (Sarah's marbles) = 7. Sarah has 7 fewer marbles than John.

Example 2: A box contains 20 red balls and 12 blue balls. How many fewer blue balls are there than red balls?

Solution: 20 (red balls) - 12 (blue balls) = 8. There are 8 fewer blue balls than red balls.

Example 3: A school has 350 students in grade 5 and 280 students in grade 4. How many fewer students are in grade 4 compared to grade 5?

Solution: 350 (grade 5) - 280 (grade 4) = 70. There are 70 fewer students in grade 4 compared to grade 5.

H2: Beyond Simple Subtraction: More Complex Scenarios

While the above examples showcase basic subtraction, "fewer" can appear in more complex word problems involving multiple steps or other mathematical operations. The key is to always identify the two quantities being compared and then perform the subtraction to find the difference.

Example 4: A baker made 50 cookies. He sold 32 and gave away 5. How many fewer cookies does he have now compared to the initial amount?

Solution: This problem requires multiple steps. First, find the total number of cookies given away: 32 + 5 = 37. Then, subtract this from the initial amount: 50 - 37 = 13. He has 13 fewer cookies now.

H2: Tips for Solving Problems Involving "Fewer"

Read Carefully: Pay close attention to the wording of the problem to identify the two quantities being compared.

Identify Keywords: Look for keywords like "difference," "how many less," and "compared to." Draw Diagrams: Visual aids, such as pictures or number lines, can help visualize the comparison. Check Your Answer: Ensure your answer makes logical sense in the context of the problem.

Conclusion:

Understanding the meaning of "fewer" in mathematics is essential for confidently tackling word problems and comparative analyses. Remember its crucial distinction from "less" and focus on identifying the quantities being compared before performing the subtraction to find the difference. By practicing with various examples and applying the tips provided, you'll master the use of "fewer" and enhance your overall mathematical problem-solving skills.

FAQs:

- 1. Can "fewer" be used with decimals or fractions? No, "fewer" is specifically for whole numbers representing countable items.
- 2. What if the problem uses "more" instead of "fewer"? You would perform addition instead of subtraction to find the difference.
- 3. Are there any situations where "fewer" might be misleading? Yes, in ambiguous situations with overlapping categories, careful reading and clarification are needed.
- 4. How can I practice using "fewer" in math problems? Search online for "word problems with fewer" or use math workbooks designed for your grade level.
- 5. Is there a specific mathematical symbol to represent "fewer"? No, there isn't a specific symbol; it's implied by the context of the subtraction operation.

what do fewer mean in math: The Blue Book of Grammar and Punctuation Lester Kaufman, Jane Straus, 2021-04-16 The bestselling workbook and grammar guide, revised and updated! Hailed as one of the best books around for teaching grammar, The Blue Book of Grammar and Punctuation includes easy-to-understand rules, abundant examples, dozens of reproducible quizzes, and pre- and post-tests to help teach grammar to middle and high schoolers, college students, ESL students, homeschoolers, and more. This concise, entertaining workbook makes learning English grammar and usage simple and fun. This updated 12th edition reflects the latest updates to English usage and grammar, and includes answers to all reproducible quizzes to facilitate self-assessment and learning. Clear and concise, with easy-to-follow explanations, offering just the facts on English grammar, punctuation, and usage Fully updated to reflect the latest rules, along with even more quizzes and pre- and post-tests to help teach grammar Ideal for students from seventh grade through adulthood in the US and abroad For anyone who wants to understand the major rules and subtle guidelines of English grammar and usage, The Blue Book of Grammar and Punctuation offers comprehensive, straightforward instruction.

what do fewer mean in math: Thomas Harriot's Artis Analyticae Praxis Muriel Seltman,

Robert Goulding, 2007-05-09 This is the first English translation of Thomas Harriot's seminal Artis Analyticae Praxis, first published in Latin in 1631. It has recently become clear that Harriot's editor substantially rearranged the work, and omitted sections beyond his comprehension. Commentary included with this translation relates to corresponding pages in the manuscript papers, enabling exploration of Harriot's novel and advanced mathematics. This publication provides the basis for a reassessment of the development of algebra.

what do fewer mean in math: *No Uncertain Terms* William Safire, 2004-06-02 Examines and provides comments on language trends while tracing the origins of timely words and phrases that discuss such topics as technology, entertainment, and everyday life.

what do fewer mean in math: *Metaphysics, Mathematics, and Meaning* Nathan U. Salmon, 2005 'Metaphysics, Mathematics and Meaning' brings together Nathan Salmon's influential papers on topics in the metaphysics of existence, non-existence and fiction. He includes a previously unpublished essay and helpful new introduction to orient the reader.

what do fewer mean in math: *Garner's Modern English Usage* Bryan A. Garner, 2016 The authority on grammar, usage, and style.

what do fewer mean in math: Philosophy of Mathematics James Robert Brown, 1999 Philosophy of Mathematicsis clear and engaging, and student friendly The book discusses the great philosophers and the importance of mathematics to their thought. Among topics discussed in the book are the mathematical image, platonism, picture-proofs, applied mathematics, Hilbert and Godel, knots and notation definitions, picture-proofs and Wittgenstein, computation, proof and conjecture.

what do fewer mean in math: <u>Garner's Modern American Usage</u> Bryan Garner, 2009-08-27 A guide to proper American English word usage, grammar, pronunciation, and style features examples of good and bad usage from the media.

what do fewer mean in math: Garner's Modern American Usage Bryan A. Garner, 2003 Painstakingly researched with copious citations from books, newspapers, and news magazines, this new edition has become the classic reference work praised by professional copy editors.

what do fewer mean in math: Math Power Patricia Clark Kenschaft, 2014-01-05 Critically acclaimed and commercially successful, this resource is packed with useful information and instruction. Features proven teaching techniques, games, and more. Suitable for parents of children from preschool to age 10. 2006 edition.

what do fewer mean in math: Diagrammatic Representation and Inference Mary Hegarty, Bernd Meyer, N. Hari Narayanan, 2003-08-01 This book constitutes the refereed proceedings of the Second International Conference Diagrams 2002, held in Callaway Gardens, Georgia, USA, in April 2002. The 21 revised full papers and 19 posters presented were carefully reviewed and selected from 77 submissions. The papers are organized in topical sections on understanding and communicating with diagrams, diagrams in mathematics, computational aspects of diagrammatic representation and reasoning, logic and diagrams, diagrams in human-computer interaction, tracing the process of diagrammatic reasoning, visualizing information with diagrams, diagrams and software engineering, and cognitive aspects.

what do fewer mean in math: Knowing and Teaching Elementary Mathematics Liping Ma, 2010-03-26 Studies of teachers in the U.S. often document insufficient subject matter knowledge in mathematics. Yet, these studies give few examples of the knowledge teachers need to support teaching, particularly the kind of teaching demanded by recent reforms in mathematics education. Knowing and Teaching Elementary Mathematics describes the nature and development of the knowledge that elementary teachers need to become accomplished mathematics teachers, and suggests why such knowledge seems more common in China than in the United States, despite the fact that Chinese teachers have less formal education than their U.S. counterparts. The anniversary edition of this bestselling volume includes the original studies that compare U.S and Chinese elementary school teachers' mathematical understanding and offers a powerful framework for grasping the mathematical content necessary to understand and develop the thinking of school

children. Highlighting notable changes in the field and the author's work, this new edition includes an updated preface, introduction, and key journal articles that frame and contextualize this seminal work.

what do fewer mean in math: <u>Principles and Standards for School Mathematics</u>, 2000 This easy-to-read summary is an excellent tool for introducing others to the messages contained in Principles and Standards.

what do fewer mean in math: Leave no child behind UNESCO, 2022-06-20 To leave no child behind, UNESCO developed the first global report of this scope onboys' disengagement from education, bringing together qualitative and quantitative evidence from over 140 countries. This report provides an overview on the global situation on boys' disengagement from and disadvantage in education. It identifies factors influencing boys' participation, progression and learning outcomes ineducation. It also analyses responses by governments and partners, and examines promising policies and programmes. Finally, it includes recommendations on how tore-engage boys with education and address disadvantage. While girls continue to face severe disadvantages and inequalities in education, the report shows that boys inmany countries are at greater risk than girls of repeating grades, failing to complete different education levels and having poorer learning outcomes in school. Noless than 132 million boys of primary and secondary school age are out of school. They urgently require support. As this report shows, supporting boys does not mean that girls lose out and vice versa. Addressing boys' disengagement not only benefits boys' learning, employment opportunities, income and well-being, it is also highly beneficial for achieving gender equality and desirable economic, social and health outcomes.

what do fewer mean in math: Mathematical Supplement of School Science, 1903 what do fewer mean in math: Oral Health for Mothers and Children in Region V, 1991 what do fewer mean in math: Helping Children Learn Mathematics National Research Council, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, Center for Education, Mathematics Learning Study Committee, 2002-07-31 Results from national and international assessments indicate that school children in the United States are not learning mathematics well enough. Many students cannot correctly apply computational algorithms to solve problems. Their understanding and use of decimals and fractions are especially weak. Indeed, helping all children succeed in mathematics is an imperative national goal. However, for our youth to succeed, we need to change how we're teaching this discipline. Helping Children Learn Mathematics provides comprehensive and reliable information that will guide efforts to improve school mathematics from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. The authors explain the five strands of mathematical proficiency and discuss the major changes that need to be made in mathematics instruction, instructional materials, assessments, teacher education, and the broader educational system and answers some of the frequently asked questions when it comes to mathematics instruction. The book concludes by providing recommended actions for parents and caregivers, teachers, administrators, and policy makers, stressing the importance that everyone work together to ensure a mathematically literate society.

what do fewer mean in math: The School News and Practical Educator, 1916
what do fewer mean in math: Sex and Friendship in Baboons Barbara B. Smuts,
2017-09-29 Those who have been privileged to watch baboons long enough to know them as
individuals and who have learned to interpret some of their more subtle interactions will attest that
the rapid flow of baboon behavior can at times be overwhelming. In fact, some of the most
sophisticated and influential observation methods for sampling vertebrate social behavior grew out
of baboon studies, invented by scientists who were trying to cope with the intricacies of baboon
behavior. Barbara Smuts' eloquent study of baboons reveals a new depth to their behavior and
extends the theories needed to account for it. While adhering to the most scrupulous methodological
strictures, the author maintains an open research strategy--respecting her subjects by approaching
them with the open mind of an ethnographer and immersing herself in the complexities of baboon
social life before formulating her research design, allowing her to detect and document a new level

of subtlety in their behavior. At the Gilgil site, described in this book, she could stroll and sit within a few feet of her subjects. By maintaining such proximity she was able to watch and listen to intimate exchanges within the troop; she was able, in other words, to shift the baboons well along the continuum from subject to informant. By doing so she has illuminated new networks of special relationships in baboons. This empirical contribution accompanies theoretical insights that not only help to explain many of the inconsistencies of previous studies but also provide the foundation for a whole new dimension in the study of primate behavior: analysis oft he dynamics of long-term, intimate relationships and their evolutionary significance. At every stage of research human observers have underestimated the baboon. These intelligent, curious, emotional, and long-lived creatures are capable of employing stratagems and forming relationships that are not easily detected by traditional research methods. In the process

what do fewer mean in math: <u>Children's dental services under the Medicaid program.</u>, 1990 what do fewer mean in math: <u>Publications</u>, 1923

what do fewer mean in math: <u>Kids' Slips Jeri J. Jaeger</u>, 2004-12-13 The study of speech errors, or slips of the tongue, is a time-honored methodology which serves as a window to the representation and processing of language and has proven to be the most reliable source of data for building theories of speech production planning. However, until Kids' Slips, there has never been a corpus of such errors from children with which to work. This is the first developmental linguistics research volume to document how online processing is revealed in young children, ages 18 months through 5 years, through their slips of the tongue. Thus, this text provides a new methodology and data source, which will greatly expand our ability to uncover the details of early language development. Professor Jaeger's groundbreaking book incorporates both details of her methodology and findings with implications for different aspects of language development, including phonetics and phonology, the lexicon, semantics, morphology, and syntax. While all the child data is included in the book, a Web site hosted by the author provides readers with the adult data as well. Kids' Slips targets those who study language development in linguistics, developmental psychology, and speech and hearing, as well as those who study language representation and processing more generally in the same disciplines.

what do fewer mean in math: Guided Math Workshop Laney Sammons, Donna Boucher, 2017-03-01 This must-have resource helps teachers successfully plan, organize, implement, and manage Guided Math Workshop. It provides practical strategies for structure and implementation to allow time for teachers to conduct small-group lessons and math conferences to target student needs. The tested resources and strategies for organization and management help to promote student independence and provide opportunities for ongoing practice of previously mastered concepts and skills. With sample workstations and mathematical tasks and problems for a variety of grade levels, this guide is sure to provide the information that teachers need to minimize preparation time and meet the needs of all students.

what do fewer mean in math: Annual Report of the Registrar-General on the Births, Deaths, and Marriages Registered in Scotland Great Britain. General Register Office (Scotland), 1907

what do fewer mean in math: Mathematics for Social Justice: Resources for the College Classroom Gizem Karaali, Lily S. Khadjavi, 2019-07-09 Mathematics for Social Justice offers a collection of resources for mathematics faculty interested in incorporating questions of social justice into their classrooms. The book begins with a series of essays from instructors experienced in integrating social justice themes into their pedagogy; these essays contain political and pedagogical motivations as well as nuts-and-bolts teaching advice. The heart of the book is a collection of fourteen classroom-tested modules featuring ready-to-use activities and investigations for the college mathematics classroom. The mathematical tools and techniques used are relevant to a wide variety of courses including college algebra, math for the liberal arts, calculus, differential equations, discrete mathematics, geometry, financial mathematics, and combinatorics. The social justice themes include human trafficking, income inequality, environmental justice, gerrymandering,

voting methods, and access to education. The volume editors are leaders of the national movement to include social justice material into mathematics teaching. Gizem Karaali is Associate Professor of Mathematics at Pomona College. She is one of the founding editors of The Journal of Humanistic Mathematics, and an associate editor for The Mathematical Intelligencer and Numeracy; she also serves on the editorial board of the MAA's Carus Mathematical Monographs. Lily Khadjavi is Associate Professor of Mathematics at Loyola Marymount University and is a past co-chair of the Infinite Possibilities Conference. She has served on the boards of Building Diversity in Science, the Barbara Jordan-Bayard Rustin Coalition, and the Harvard Gender and Sexuality Caucus.

what do fewer mean in math: The Elephants of Style Bill Walsh, 2004-04-22 Advice on good writing from everybody's favorite editorial curmudgeon Persnickety, cantankerous, opinionated, entertaining, hilarious, wise...these are a few of the adjectives reviewers used to describe good-writing maven Bill Walsh's previous book, Lapsing Into a Comma. Now, picking up where he left off in Lapsing, Walsh addresses the dozen or so biggest issues that every writer or editor must master. He also offers a trunkload of good advice on the many little things that add up to good writing. Featuring all the elements that made Lapsing such a fun read, including Walsh's trademark acerbic wit and fascinating digressions on language and its discontents, The Elephants of Style provides: Tips on how to tame the elephants of style--the most important, frequently confused elements of good writing More of Walsh's popular Curmudgeon's Stylebook--includes entries such as Snarky Specificity, Metaphors, Near and Far, Actually is the New Like, and other uses and misuses of language Expert advice for writers and editors on how to work together for best results

what do fewer mean in math: Philosophy and Psychology Pamphlets , 1925

what do fewer mean in math: The Medical Officer, 1911

what do fewer mean in math: Pamphlets on Biology, 1904

what do fewer mean in math: Monthly Notes, Farm Management, and Farm Economics, 1949

what do fewer mean in math: Annual Report of the Registrar-General for Scotland, 1916

what do fewer mean in math: Report Commonwealth Shipping Committee, 1910

what do fewer mean in math: 101 Ways to Score Higher on Your SAT Reasoning Test Jaclyn Bissell, Martin Maguire, 2008 SAT reasoning test is a trademark of the College Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse this product.

what do fewer mean in math: The Cognitive Foundations of Personality Traits Shulamith Kreitler, Hans Kreitler, 2013-06-29 Hardly anything in psychology is as irking as the trait concept. Psychologists and laypersons alike use primarily adjective trait-names to characterize and even concep tualize the individuals they encounter. There are more than a hundred well-defined personality traits and a great many questionnaires for their assessment, some of which are designed to assess the same or very similar traits. Little is known about their ontogenetic development and even less about their underlying dynamics. Psy choanalytic theory was invoked for explaining the psychodynamics underlying a few personality traits without, however, presenting sufficient empirical evidence for the validity of these interpretations. In a reductionistic vein, behaviorally inclined psy chologists have propounded the thesis that all traits are acquired behaviors. Yet, this view neither reduces the number of personality tests nor explains the resistance of traits to modification by means of reward and punishment. Dissatisfied with these and some other less well-known approaches to person ality traits, we decided to explore whether applying our psychosemantic theory of cognition to the trait concept would do better. The way we had to follow was anything but easy.

what do fewer mean in math: American Rehabilitation, 2004

what do fewer mean in math: Applied Statistics and Probability for Engineers Douglas C. Montgomery, George C. Runger, 2010-03-22 Montgomery and Runger's bestselling engineering statistics text provides a practical approach oriented to engineering as well as chemical and physical sciences. By providing unique problem sets that reflect realistic situations, students learn how the material will be relevant in their careers. With a focus on how statistical tools are integrated into the engineering problem-solving process, all major aspects of engineering statistics are covered.

Developed with sponsorship from the National Science Foundation, this text incorporates many insights from the authors' teaching experience along with feedback from numerous adopters of previous editions.

what do fewer mean in math: <u>Grade 7 Common Core Math Review</u> Sandra Luna McCune, 2015 A subject review of Common Core Math for Grade 7, including reviews of topics, example problems, and two practice tests for this high-stakes Grade 7 Math.

what do fewer mean in math: CliffsNotes Grade 7 Common Core Math Review Sandra Luna McCune, 2015-06-30 Nearly half of adults, including parents of middle-school students, have never heard of the Common Core State Standards, let alone have a working knowledge of what exactly their children face when it comes to middle-school math. Even teachers acknowledge struggling with how best to teach their students these math standards. CliffsNotes comes to the rescue with this Grade 7 Common Core Math Review. Aligned to the state standards, this book provides essential coverage of the Grade 7 CCSS math that's challenging middle-school students, teachers, and parents alike. The material covers all of the math standards that comprise Grade 7 CCSS math: • Ratios and proportional relationships • The number system • Geometry • Expressions and equations • Statistics and probability Two practice tests round out the book, plus every review chapter includes example problems.

what do fewer mean in math: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report , 2005-08 what do fewer mean in math: The Budget Report of the State Board of Finance and Control to the General Assembly, Session of [1929-] 1937 Connecticut. Board of Finance and Control, 1925 Budget report for 1929/31 deals also with the operations of the fiscal year ended June 30, 1928 and the estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1929.

what do fewer mean in math: Science & Engineering Indicators , 1989

DO vs. MD: What's the Difference - WebMD

Jul 18, 2024 · Find out the differences between an MD and DO, and discover the pros, cons, risks, and benefits, and how it may affect health.

DO Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster

Feasible comes from faire, the French verb meaning "to do." Doable and feasible therefore originally meant literally the same thing: "capable of being done."

Osteopathic medicine: What kind of doctor is a D.O.? - Mayo Clinic

Nov 29, 2022 · What kind of doctor is a D.O.? Does a D.O. have the same training as an M.D.? A doctor of osteopathic medicine, also known as a D.O., is a fully trained and licensed doctor. A ...

What is a DO? - American Osteopathic Association

What is a DO? DOs are fully licensed physicians who practice in all areas of medicine using a whole person approach to partner with their patients.

DO Definition & Meaning | Dictionary.com

Do definition: to perform (an act, duty, role, etc.).. See examples of DO used in a sentence.

DO | English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary

Do is one of three auxiliary verbs in English: be, do, have. We use do to make negatives (do + not), to make question forms, and to make the verb more emphatic. ...

Do - definition of do by The Free Dictionary

1. To behave or conduct oneself; act: Do as I say and you won't get into trouble. 2. a. To get along; fare: students who do well at school. b. To carry on; manage: I could do without your ...

DO definition and meaning | Collins English Dictionary

When you do something, you take some action or perform an activity or task. Do is often used instead of a more specific verb, to talk about a common action involving a particular thing.

Do: Definition, Meaning, and Examples - usdictionary.com

Sep 17, $2024 \cdot$ As a verb, "do" means to perform, carry out, or execute an action. It's one of the most common verbs in English, used in a wide range of contexts, from simple tasks to ...

Do Definition & Meaning - Your Dictionary

To perform the tasks or behaviors typically associated with (something), especially as part of one's character or normal duties. That talk show host just doesn't do subtle.

DO vs. MD: What's the Difference - WebMD

Jul 18, $2024 \cdot \text{Find}$ out the differences between an MD and DO, and discover the pros, cons, risks, and benefits, and how it may affect health.

DO Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster

Feasible comes from faire, the French verb meaning "to do." Doable and feasible therefore originally meant literally the same thing: "capable of being done."

Osteopathic medicine: What kind of doctor is a D.O.? - Mayo Clinic

Nov 29, 2022 · What kind of doctor is a D.O.? Does a D.O. have the same training as an M.D.? A doctor of osteopathic medicine, also known as a D.O., is a fully trained and licensed doctor. A ...

What is a DO? - American Osteopathic Association

What is a DO? DOs are fully licensed physicians who practice in all areas of medicine using a whole person approach to partner with their patients.

DO Definition & Meaning | Dictionary.com

Do definition: to perform (an act, duty, role, etc.).. See examples of DO used in a sentence.

DO | English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary

Do is one of three auxiliary verbs in English: be, do, have. We use do to make negatives (do + not), to make question forms, and to make the verb more emphatic. ...

Do - definition of do by The Free Dictionary

1. To behave or conduct oneself; act: Do as I say and you won't get into trouble. 2. a. To get along; fare: students who do well at school. b. To carry on; manage: I could do without your interference.

DO definition and meaning | Collins English Dictionary

When you do something, you take some action or perform an activity or task. Do is often used instead of a more specific verb, to talk about a common action involving a particular thing.

Do: Definition, Meaning, and Examples - usdictionary.com

Sep 17, $2024 \cdot$ As a verb, "do" means to perform, carry out, or execute an action. It's one of the most common verbs in English, used in a wide range of contexts, from simple tasks to complex ...

Do Definition & Meaning - Your Dictionary

To perform the tasks or behaviors typically associated with (something), especially as part of one's character or normal duties. That talk show host just doesn't do subtle.

Back to Home