



The Case of the Missing Championship Ball

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

Detective: _____ Date: _____

The golden ball is gone from the trophy case! The Arena Mascot saw a sneaky shadow run across the court. We must find the Hoop Bandit before the final buzzer!

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 the Hoop Bandit is _____

Possible suspects

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

NAME	SPECIAL MOVE	LUCKY GEAR	SHOOTING HAND	HEAD WEAR	GAME DISTRACTION
Kevin	half court buzzer beater	sticky gloves	right handed shooter	blue headband	cold water
Dame	half court buzzer beater	super bounce ball	right handed shooter	blue headband	squeaky shoes
Zion	no look pass	spring shoes	right handed shooter	red hair tie	cold water
Dirk	spin move dunk	glow jersey	right handed shooter	blue headband	squeaky shoes
Yao	no look pass	spring shoes	right handed shooter	blue headband	squeaky shoes
Booker	monster block	speed socks	left handed shooter	blue headband	cold water
Ja	monster block	glow jersey	left handed shooter	red hair tie	cold water
Trae	monster block	glow jersey	left handed shooter	blue headband	cold water
Kawhi	monster block	speed socks	right handed shooter	blue headband	cold water
Jordan	monster block	super bounce ball	right handed shooter	green sweatband	loud whistle
Shaq	half court buzzer beater	glow jersey	right handed shooter	blue headband	squeaky shoes
Reggie	spin move dunk	speed socks	left handed shooter	red hair tie	squeaky shoes
Kobe	no look pass	sticky gloves	left handed shooter	green sweatband	loud whistle
LeBron	monster block	sticky gloves	right handed shooter	blue headband	cold water
Steph	half court buzzer beater	spring shoes	left handed shooter	blue headband	squeaky shoes
Tatum	no look pass	sticky gloves	right handed shooter	blue headband	cold water
Giannis	lightning crossover	sticky gloves	right handed shooter	blue headband	cold water
Muggsy	half court buzzer beater	sticky gloves	right handed shooter	blue headband	squeaky shoes
Kyrie	no look pass	super bounce ball	right handed shooter	red hair tie	squeaky shoes
Jimmy	half court buzzer beater	speed socks	right handed shooter	green sweatband	loud whistle
Nikola	spin move dunk	spring shoes	left handed shooter	red hair tie	loud whistle

CLUE 1 Addition

We need to count the gym balls. Let us add the red balls and the blue balls to find the total.

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

T									T									T
16	17	6	11	10	2	12	4	16	12	3	6	14	2	3	16			
5	6	10	8	14	20	6	6	12	14	3	7	13	14					

$5 + 11 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$1 + 1 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$

$6 + 5 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

$10 + 4 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$

$1 + 2 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{O}}$

$4 + 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

$3 + 5 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{R}}$

$8 + 4 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

$1 + 4 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{W}}$

$10 + 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{K}}$

$4 + 2 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

$2 + 2 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$

$7 + 10 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

$13 + 7 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{P}}$

$6 + 4 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 2

Subtraction

Some practice jerseys are missing. We take away the dirty ones to see what is left in the bin.

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

T																
5	1	13	4	10	13	6	11	3	4	1	12	5	8	6	4	

T								T								T
5	6	11	13	10	8	17	5	1	5	1	13	16	17	9	1	5

1	6	10	2

$11 - 6 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$12 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{K}}$

$18 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$

$14 - 2 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{O}}$

$10 - 6 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$

$18 - 5 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

$9 - 7 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

$11 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$

$9 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{W}}$

$18 - 2 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{R}}$

$12 - 6 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

$12 - 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{G}}$

$6 - 5 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

$7 - 4 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{Y}}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 3 Skip counting

The players bounce the balls in pairs. Let us count them by twos to find the pattern.

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

T									T							
10	12	25	26	20	15	70	120	10	28	20	15	90	28	40	65	
						T					T	T				
42	40	35	70	39	20	10	25	28	26	40	10	10	35	25	50	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, __, 40, 45 → **L**

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

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

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, __, 70, 75 → **M**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, __, 25, 30 → **A**

Scratch space:

CLUE 4
Place value

The locker numbers have tens and ones. Look at the digit in the tens place to find a clue.

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

W															
80	71	14	75	28	38	42	58	37	82	28	71				
79	71	58	42	37	58	38	42	75	38	69	79	71	50	75	28

What number has 8 tens and 0 ones? → **W**

What number has 4 tens and 2 ones? → **D**

What number has 3 tens and 7 ones? → **B**

What number has 6 tens and 9 ones? → **T**

What number has 7 tens and 9 ones? → **H**

What number has 3 tens and 8 ones? → **N**

What number has 7 tens and 1 one? → **E**

What number has 2 tens and 8 ones? → **U**

What number has 7 tens and 5 ones? → **O**

What number has 4 tens and 1 one? → **R**

What number has 1 ten and 4 ones? → **F**

What number has 5 tens and 8 ones? → **A**

What number has 8 tens and 2 ones? → **L**

What number has 5 tens and 0 ones? → **C**

Scratch space:

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

We have eight water bottles now. We need ten in total. 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:

$8 + \underline{\quad} = 17$

$10 + \underline{\quad} = 20$

$7 + \underline{\quad} = 10$

$10 + \underline{\quad} = 11$

$7 + \underline{\quad} = 15$

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

$5 + \underline{\quad} = 10$

$1 + \underline{\quad} = 7$

$10 + \underline{\quad} = 21$

$3 + \underline{\quad} = 7$

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

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain sinks a half court buzzer beater, then springs away in spring shoes.
2. The villain makes a lightning crossover, then snatches the ball with sticky gloves.
3. The villain sinks a half court buzzer beater, then snatches the ball with sticky gloves.
4. The villain leaps for a monster block, then dashes away in speed socks.
5. The villain shows off a spin move dunk, then bounces off with a super bounce ball.
6. The villain throws a no look pass, then bounces off with a super bounce ball.
7. The villain makes a lightning crossover, then springs away in spring shoes.
8. The villain shows off a spin move dunk, then snatches the ball with sticky gloves.
9. The villain leaps for a monster block, then snatches the ball with sticky gloves.
10. The villain throws a no look pass, then snatches the ball with sticky gloves.
11. The villain shows off a spin move dunk, then flashes a bright glow jersey.
12. The villain shows off a spin move dunk, then dashes away in speed socks.

Answer Key

The Case of the Missing Championship Ball

Culprit: Giannis

lightning crossover · sticky gloves · right handed shooter · blue headband · cold water

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

Clue 1 (Addition): "THE BANDIT DOES NOT WEAR SPEED SOCKS"

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

Clue 2 (Subtraction): "THE SNEAKY SHOT WAS TAKEN WITH THE RIGHT HAND"

$11 - 6 = 5$ (T) · $12 - 1 = 11$ (K) · $18 - 1 = 17$ (I) · $14 - 2 = 12$ (O) · $10 - 6 = 4$ (S) · $18 - 5 = 13$ (E) · $9 - 7 = 2$ (D) · $11 - 1 = 10$ (N) · $9 - 1 = 8$ (W) · $18 - 2 = 16$ (R) · $12 - 6 = 6$ (A) · $12 - 3 = 9$ (G) · $6 - 5 = 1$ (H) · $7 - 4 = 3$ (Y)

Clue 3 (Skip counting): "THE BANDIT RAN FROM COLD WATER BOTTLES"

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, __, 12, 14 = 10 (T) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, __, 50, 60 = 40 (O) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, __, 42, 45 = 39 (W) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, __, 15, 18 = 12 (H) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, __, 45, 48 = 42 (C) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, __, 60, 70 = 50 (S) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, __, 28, 30 = 26 (B) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, __, 100, 110 = 90 (F) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, __, 18, 21 = 15 (N) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, __, 30, 32 = 28 (R) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, __, 30, 35 = 25 (E) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, __, 40, 45 = 35 (L) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, __, 130, 140 = 120 (I) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, __, 80, 90 = 70 (D) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, __, 70, 75 = 65 (M) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, __, 25, 30 = 20 (A)

Clue 4 (Place value): "WE FOUND A BLUE HEADBAND ON THE COURT"

What number has 8 tens and 0 ones? = 80 (W) · What number has 4 tens and 2 ones? = 42 (D) · What number has 3 tens and 7 ones? = 37 (B) · What number has 6 tens and 9 ones? = 69 (T) · What number has 7 tens and 9 ones? = 79 (H) · What number has 3 tens and 8 ones? = 38 (N) · What number has 7 tens and 1 one? = 71 (E) · What number has 2 tens and 8 ones? = 28 (U) · What number has 7 tens and 5 ones? = 75 (O) · What number has 4 tens and 1 one? = 41 (R) · What number has 1 ten and 4 ones? = 14 (F) · What number has 5 tens and 8 ones? = 58 (A) · What number has 8 tens and 2 ones? = 82 (L) · What number has 5 tens and 0 ones? = 50 (C)

Clue 5 (Missing addends): surviving statement is box 2 → Giannis

$8 + \underline{\quad} = 17 = 9$ · $10 + \underline{\quad} = 20 = 10$ · $7 + \underline{\quad} = 10 = 3$ · $10 + \underline{\quad} = 11 = 1$ · $7 + \underline{\quad} = 15 = 8$ · $6 + \underline{\quad} = 13 = 7$ · $5 + \underline{\quad} = 10 = 5$ · $1 + \underline{\quad} = 7 = 6$ · $10 + \underline{\quad} = 21 = 11$ · $3 + \underline{\quad} = 7 = 4$ · $5 + \underline{\quad} = 17 = 12$