



The Great Cupcake Caper

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

Detective: _____ Date: _____

Oh no! The giant prize cupcake has vanished from the bakery counter. Baker Bob needs your help to find the sneaky cupcake bandit before the big party starts.

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	SECRET TOOL	BAKING TRICK	SPATULA HAND	HAIR TOPPING	TASTY TRAP
Meg	icing blower	cream piping	left handed	white flour	loud oven timer
Dan	sprinkle shooter	cream piping	right handed	blue sprinkles	loud oven timer
Hal	sprinkle shooter	flour dusting	left handed	white flour	fresh strawberries
Ava	whisk spinner	cherry throwing	right handed	blue sprinkles	fresh strawberries
Rex	icing blower	sugar dusting	right handed	blue sprinkles	cold milk
Jay	dough roller	sugar dusting	left handed	white flour	fresh strawberries
Tia	icing blower	cream piping	right handed	white flour	fresh strawberries
Joy	whisk spinner	sugar dusting	left handed	white flour	cold milk
Leo	dough roller	cherry throwing	right handed	blue sprinkles	loud oven timer
Gus	dough roller	cream piping	left handed	white flour	loud oven timer
Max	pan clapper	flour dusting	right handed	blue sprinkles	loud oven timer
Ned	icing blower	flour dusting	left handed	white flour	fresh strawberries
Roy	sprinkle shooter	jelly dripping	right handed	pink frosting	cold milk
Zoe	dough roller	jelly dripping	left handed	blue sprinkles	fresh strawberries
Eli	icing blower	flour dusting	left handed	blue sprinkles	fresh strawberries
Tim	sprinkle shooter	cherry throwing	left handed	white flour	fresh strawberries
Fay	icing blower	sugar dusting	left handed	white flour	fresh strawberries
Pam	pan clapper	jelly dripping	left handed	pink frosting	cold milk
Sam	whisk spinner	cream piping	left handed	blue sprinkles	fresh strawberries
Mia	dough roller	cream piping	right handed	blue sprinkles	loud oven timer
Ben	pan clapper	jelly dripping	left handed	white flour	cold milk

CLUE 1 Addition

Let us add up the spilled baking cups on the floor to see where the bandit went.

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

T									T							
9	18	19	12	4	2	11	16	9	16	13	2	7	9		4	

						T							
6	18	19	15	15	10	9	18	15	7	8	19	15	

$2 + 7 = \square \rightarrow$ T	$4 + 3 = \square \rightarrow$ O	$1 + 1 = \square \rightarrow$ N	$12 + 6 = \square \rightarrow$ H
$7 + 5 = \square \rightarrow$ B	$6 + 2 = \square \rightarrow$ W	$2 + 2 = \square \rightarrow$ A	$6 + 4 = \square \rightarrow$ Y
$2 + 4 = \square \rightarrow$ C	$5 + 6 = \square \rightarrow$ D	$6 + 9 = \square \rightarrow$ R	$11 + 8 = \square \rightarrow$ E
$9 + 7 = \square \rightarrow$ I	$3 + 10 = \square \rightarrow$ S		

Scratch space:

CLUE 2
Subtraction

The bandit took away some frosting bowls from our stack. Let us count how many are left.

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

T									T										
1	18	12	5	18	12	6	9	1	18	12	10	2	16	1	14	6	16		
		T		T							T								
7	11	1	18	1	18	12	11	3	6	12	13	1	18	16	4	9			

$7 - 6 = \square \rightarrow \text{**T**}$

$12 - 8 = \square \rightarrow \text{**N**}$

$12 - 3 = \square \rightarrow \text{**D**}$

$20 - 6 = \square \rightarrow \text{**U**}$

$18 - 7 = \square \rightarrow \text{**I**}$

$10 - 7 = \square \rightarrow \text{**R**}$

$6 - 4 = \square \rightarrow \text{**P**}$

$11 - 4 = \square \rightarrow \text{**W**}$

$19 - 6 = \square \rightarrow \text{**F**}$

$19 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \text{**H**}$

$10 - 4 = \square \rightarrow \text{**L**}$

$19 - 3 = \square \rightarrow \text{**A**}$

$9 - 4 = \square \rightarrow \text{**Y**}$

$18 - 6 = \square \rightarrow \text{**E**}$

$16 - 6 = \square \rightarrow \text{**S**}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 3

Word problems

Baker Bob needs help solving a tasty baking puzzle to unlock the next secret clue.

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

Someone scared the villain off with

F **W** **B** **I** .

37 30 39 34 9 34 40 30 19 39 30 30 39 34

There were 41 aprons. 4 were used up. How many aprons are left?

Answer: → **F**

Baker Bob lined up 3 rows of 10 spatulas. How many spatulas in all?

Answer: → **R**

There were 43 cherries. 9 were used up. How many cherries are left?

Answer: → **S**

Baker Bob lined up 8 rows of 5 spatulas. How many spatulas in all?

Answer: → **T**

There were 16 cupcakes. 7 were used up. How many cupcakes are left?

Answer: → **H**

Baker Bob found 37 cupcakes yesterday and 2 more today. How many cupcakes in all?

Answer: → **E**

Baker Bob found 10 cupcakes yesterday and 9 more today. How many cupcakes in all?

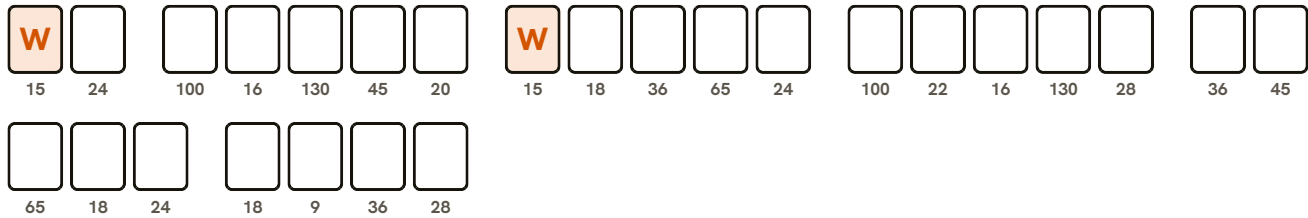
Answer: → **A**

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Skip counting

Look at the rows of delicious cookies. We can count them by twos to find the hidden path.

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



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

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, __, 26, 28 → **E**

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 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, __, 140, 150 → **U**

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

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

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

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

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, __, 39, 42 → **I**

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

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

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

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

Scratch space:

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

We have four cupcakes but need ten total for the party. How many more must we bake to find the final clue.

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:

$7 + \underline{\quad} = 16$

$5 + \underline{\quad} = 11$

$10 + \underline{\quad} = 12$

$4 + \underline{\quad} = 16$

$6 + \underline{\quad} = 9$

$4 + \underline{\quad} = 11$

$7 + \underline{\quad} = 17$

$3 + \underline{\quad} = 11$

$7 + \underline{\quad} = 11$

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

$4 + \underline{\quad} = 15$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain clangs heavy baking pans together, then makes the floor slippery with sugar dusting.
2. The villain rolls out flat paths of dough, then makes the floor slippery with sugar dusting.
3. The villain blasts a shower of sweet sprinkles, then leaves a trail of sticky jelly dripping.
4. The villain blasts a shower of sweet sprinkles, then makes the floor slippery with sugar dusting.
5. The villain sprays sticky sweet icing, then creates a white cloud of flour dusting.
6. The villain sprays sticky sweet icing, then makes the floor slippery with sugar dusting.
7. The villain clangs heavy baking pans together, then hurls bright red cherries at the walls.
8. The villain sprays sticky sweet icing, then leaves a trail of sticky jelly dripping.
9. The villain blasts a shower of sweet sprinkles, then creates a white cloud of flour dusting.
10. The villain clangs heavy baking pans together, then creates a white cloud of flour dusting.
11. The villain clangs heavy baking pans together, then leaves a trail of sticky jelly dripping.
12. The villain sprays sticky sweet icing, then pipes sweet fluffy cream over the door.

Answer Key

The Great Cupcake Caper

Culprit: Ned

icing blower · flour dusting · left handed · white flour · fresh strawberries

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 18 → Clue 2 12 → Clue 3 7 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Addition): "THE BANDIT IS NOT A CHERRY THROWER"

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

Clue 2 (Subtraction): "THEY HELD THE SPATULA WITH THEIR LEFT HAND"

$7 - 6 = 1$ (T) · $12 - 8 = 4$ (N) · $12 - 3 = 9$ (D) · $20 - 6 = 14$ (U) · $18 - 7 = 11$ (I) · $10 - 7 = 3$ (R) · $6 - 4 = 2$ (P) · $11 - 4 = 7$ (W) · $19 - 6 = 13$ (F) · $19 - 1 = 18$ (H) · $10 - 4 = 6$ (L) · $19 - 3 = 16$ (A) · $9 - 4 = 5$ (Y) · $18 - 6 = 12$ (E) · $16 - 6 = 10$ (S)

Clue 3 (Word problems): "FRESH STRAWBERRIES"

There were 41 aprons. 4 were used up. How many aprons are left? = 37 (F) · Baker Bob lined up 3 rows of 10 spatulas. How many spatulas in all? = 30 (R) · There were 43 cherries. 9 were used up. How many cherries are left? = 34 (S) · Baker Bob lined up 8 rows of 5 spatulas. How many spatulas in all? = 40 (T) · There were 16 cupcakes. 7 were used up. How many cupcakes are left? = 9 (H) · Baker Bob found 37 cupcakes yesterday and 2 more today. How many cupcakes in all? = 39 (E) · Baker Bob found 10 cupcakes yesterday and 9 more today. How many cupcakes in all? = 19 (A)

Clue 4 (Skip counting): "WE FOUND WHITE FLOUR IN THE HAIR"

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, __, 18, 21 = 15 (W) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, __, 26, 28 = 24 (E) · 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 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, __, 140, 150 = 130 (U) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, __, 110, 120 = 100 (F) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, __, 50, 55 = 45 (N) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, __, 25, 30 = 20 (D) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, __, 24, 26 = 22 (L) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, __, 39, 42 = 36 (I) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, __, 21, 24 = 18 (H) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, __, 70, 75 = 65 (T) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, __, 12, 15 = 9 (A) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, __, 18, 20 = 16 (O)

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

$7 + \underline{\quad} = 16 = 9$ · $5 + \underline{\quad} = 11 = 6$ · $10 + \underline{\quad} = 12 = 2$ · $4 + \underline{\quad} = 16 = 12$ · $6 + \underline{\quad} = 9 = 3$ · $4 + \underline{\quad} = 11 = 7$ · $7 + \underline{\quad} = 17 = 10$ · $3 + \underline{\quad} = 11 = 8$ · $7 + \underline{\quad} = 11 = 4$ · $10 + \underline{\quad} = 11 = 1$ · $4 + \underline{\quad} = 15 = 11$