



The Missing Golden Basketball

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

Detective: _____ Date: _____

The big championship game is about to start! But someone took the lucky golden basketball. Can you help the coach find the Sneaky Shooter before the final buzzer sounds?

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 Sneaky Shooter is _____

Possible suspects

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

NAME	SIGNATURE MOVE	LUCKY GEAR	SHOOTING HAND	COURT HAIRSTYLE	COURT DISTRACTION
Kevin Durant	No-Look Pass	Star Badge	Right-Handed	Tall Mohawk	Thirsty
Zion Williamson	Slam Dunk	Silver Whistle	Left-Handed	Blue Headband	Thirsty
Donovan Mitchell	Three-Pointer	Gold Medal	Left-Handed	Tall Mohawk	Mascot Fear
Anthony Davis	Sky Hook	Gold Medal	Left-Handed	Blue Headband	Mascot Fear
Devin Booker	No-Look Pass	Neon Socks	Left-Handed	Blue Headband	Mascot Fear
Jayson Tatum	Spin Move	Star Badge	Right-Handed	Spiky Hair	Mascot Fear
Kyrie Irving	Slam Dunk	Neon Socks	Left-Handed	Blue Headband	Squeaky Sneaker
Giannis Antetokounmpo	Three-Pointer	Star Badge	Left-Handed	Blue Headband	Mascot Fear
James Harden	Spin Move	Red Wristband	Left-Handed	Tall Mohawk	Mascot Fear
Dearron Fox	Spin Move	Gold Medal	Left-Handed	Blue Headband	Squeaky Sneaker
LeBron James	No-Look Pass	Neon Socks	Left-Handed	Tall Mohawk	Squeaky Sneaker
Kawhi Leonard	Sky Hook	Silver Whistle	Right-Handed	Blue Headband	Mascot Fear
Jimmy Butler	Three-Pointer	Neon Socks	Right-Handed	Tall Mohawk	Thirsty
Trae Young	Spin Move	Silver Whistle	Left-Handed	Blue Headband	Squeaky Sneaker
Chris Paul	Sky Hook	Gold Medal	Right-Handed	Blue Headband	Squeaky Sneaker
Stephen Curry	Spin Move	Red Wristband	Left-Handed	Spiky Hair	Mascot Fear
Ja Morant	Slam Dunk	Star Badge	Left-Handed	Blue Headband	Mascot Fear
Damian Lillard	Spin Move	Red Wristband	Left-Handed	Blue Headband	Mascot Fear
Joel Embiid	Slam Dunk	Star Badge	Right-Handed	Spiky Hair	Squeaky Sneaker
Luka Doncic	Sky Hook	Red Wristband	Right-Handed	Blue Headband	Squeaky Sneaker
Bam Adebayo	Three-Pointer	Gold Medal	Left-Handed	Blue Headband	Squeaky Sneaker

CLUE 1

Place value

The gym scoreboard has a glitch. It only shows tens and ones to name the clue locker.

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

T																T
71	23	78	79	59	97	97	98	59	80	92	37	78	56	80	37	71
26	78	98	52	80	78	37	80	56	37	17	48	56				

What number has 7 tens and 1 one?

→

T

What number has 2 tens and 6 ones?

→

W

What number has 9 tens and 2 ones?

→

D

What number has 5 tens and 2 ones?

→

R

What number has 9 tens and 7 ones?

→

L

What number has 2 tens and 3 ones?

→

H

What number has 3 tens and 7 ones?

→

O

What number has 4 tens and 8 ones?

→

K

What number has 7 tens and 9 ones?

→

V

What number has 8 tens and 0 ones?

→

N

What number has 5 tens and 9 ones?

→

I

What number has 1 ten and 7 ones?

→

C

What number has 5 tens and 6 ones?

→

S

What number has 7 tens and 8 ones?

→

E

What number has 9 tens and 8 ones?

→

A

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Addition

We must count all the basketballs in the big bins to open the gym door.

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

T																			
15	10	20	3	12	9	9	8	12	7	7	10	5	15	8	16	15	10	12	
			T																
9	20	13	15	10	12	2	6												

$6 + 9 = \square \rightarrow$ T	$1 + 5 = \square \rightarrow$ D	$4 + 3 = \square \rightarrow$ S	$7 + 13 = \square \rightarrow$ E
$4 + 8 = \square \rightarrow$ A	$1 + 1 = \square \rightarrow$ N	$2 + 1 = \square \rightarrow$ B	$7 + 2 = \square \rightarrow$ L
$7 + 6 = \square \rightarrow$ F	$5 + 3 = \square \rightarrow$ W	$3 + 2 = \square \rightarrow$ O	$7 + 3 = \square \rightarrow$ H
$4 + 12 = \square \rightarrow$ I			

Scratch space:

CLUE 3

Subtraction

The team lost some practice cones during warmups. Subtract to find the missing ones.

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

T			T					T								
15	5	3	15	13	7	14	3	15	7	13	18	13	17	13	8	
				T												T
12	7	4	10	15	5	3	11	3	13	7	10	13	2	19	4	15

$18 - 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$8 - 6 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$

$20 - 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{W}}$

$8 - 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

$5 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{O}}$

$19 - 8 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

$15 - 8 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{R}}$

$11 - 8 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

$20 - 6 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{G}}$

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

$12 - 2 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{M}}$

$20 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

$19 - 1 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$

$15 - 7 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{Y}}$

$15 - 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{F}}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Skip counting

Look at the sneakers lined up by the bench. Let us count them by twos.

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

W														
18	45	50	42	55	39	26	6	30	22	55	45			

100	45	6	26	30	6	39	26	30	25	130	100	45	39	130

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

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

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

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

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, __, 60, 65 → **U**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, __, 8, 10 → **A**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, __, 40, 50 → **B**

Scratch space:

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

We need ten water bottles for the team. We only have six. How many more do we need?

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:

$10 + \underline{\quad} = 22$

$4 + \underline{\quad} = 12$

$3 + \underline{\quad} = 14$

$1 + \underline{\quad} = 11$

$2 + \underline{\quad} = 7$

$2 + \underline{\quad} = 3$

$8 + \underline{\quad} = 11$

$6 + \underline{\quad} = 10$

$9 + \underline{\quad} = 11$

$10 + \underline{\quad} = 16$

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

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain sinks a clean three-pointer, then polishes their gold medal.
2. The villain throws a no-look pass, then polishes their gold medal.
3. The villain does a quick spin move, then polishes their gold medal.
4. The villain shoots a high sky hook, then blows a silver whistle.
5. The villain throws a no-look pass, then pulls up their neon socks.
6. The villain leaps for a slam dunk, then polishes their gold medal.
7. The villain shoots a high sky hook, then polishes their gold medal.
8. The villain does a quick spin move, then adjusts their red wristband.
9. The villain leaps for a slam dunk, then adjusts their red wristband.
10. The villain throws a no-look pass, then adjusts their red wristband.
11. The villain leaps for a slam dunk, then taps their star badge.
12. The villain sinks a clean three-pointer, then taps their star badge.

Answer Key

The Missing Golden Basketball

Culprit: Anthony Davis

Sky Hook · Gold Medal · Left-Handed · Blue Headband · Mascot Fear

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 17 → Clue 2 11 → Clue 3 7 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Place value): "THE VILLAIN DOES NOT WEAR NEON SOCKS"

What number has 7 tens and 1 one? = 71 (T) · What number has 2 tens and 6 ones? = 26 (W) · What number has 9 tens and 2 ones? = 92 (D) · What number has 5 tens and 2 ones? = 52 (R) · What number has 9 tens and 7 ones? = 97 (L) · What number has 2 tens and 3 ones? = 23 (H) · What number has 3 tens and 7 ones? = 37 (O) · What number has 4 tens and 8 ones? = 48 (K) · What number has 7 tens and 9 ones? = 79 (V) · What number has 8 tens and 0 ones? = 80 (N) · What number has 5 tens and 9 ones? = 59 (I) · What number has 1 ten and 7 ones? = 17 (C) · What number has 5 tens and 6 ones? = 56 (S) · What number has 7 tens and 8 ones? = 78 (E) · What number has 9 tens and 8 ones? = 98 (A)

Clue 2 (Addition): "THE BALL WAS SHOT WITH A LEFT HAND"

$6 + 9 = 15$ (T) · $1 + 5 = 6$ (D) · $4 + 3 = 7$ (S) · $7 + 13 = 20$ (E) · $4 + 8 = 12$ (A) · $1 + 1 = 2$ (N) · $2 + 1 = 3$ (B) · $7 + 2 = 9$ (L) · $7 + 6 = 13$ (F) · $5 + 3 = 8$ (W) · $3 + 2 = 5$ (O) · $7 + 3 = 10$ (H) · $4 + 12 = 16$ (I)

Clue 3 (Subtraction): "THE TARGET RAN AWAY FROM THE BEAR MASCOT"

$18 - 3 = 15$ (T) · $8 - 6 = 2$ (S) · $20 - 3 = 17$ (W) · $8 - 3 = 5$ (H) · $5 - 1 = 4$ (O) · $19 - 8 = 11$ (B) · $15 - 8 = 7$ (R) · $11 - 8 = 3$ (E) · $20 - 6 = 14$ (G) · $18 - 5 = 13$ (A) · $12 - 2 = 10$ (M) · $20 - 1 = 19$ (C) · $19 - 1 = 18$ (N) · $15 - 7 = 8$ (Y) · $15 - 3 = 12$ (F)

Clue 4 (Skip counting): "WE FOUND A BLUE HEADBAND BY THE NET"

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, __, 21, 24 = 18 (W) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, __, 50, 55 = 45 (E) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, __, 110, 120 = 100 (H) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, __, 60, 70 = 50 (F) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, __, 60, 65 = 55 (U) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, __, 8, 10 = 6 (A) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, __, 42, 45 = 39 (N) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, __, 24, 26 = 22 (L) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, __, 28, 30 = 26 (D) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, __, 45, 48 = 42 (O) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, __, 30, 35 = 25 (Y) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, __, 140, 150 = 130 (T) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, __, 40, 50 = 30 (B)

Clue 5 (Missing addends): surviving statement is box 7 → Anthony Davis

$10 + \underline{\quad} = 22 = 12$ · $4 + \underline{\quad} = 12 = 8$ · $3 + \underline{\quad} = 14 = 11$ · $1 + \underline{\quad} = 11 = 10$ · $2 + \underline{\quad} = 7 = 5$ · $2 + \underline{\quad} = 3 = 1$ · $8 + \underline{\quad} = 11 = 3$ · $6 + \underline{\quad} = 10 = 4$ · $9 + \underline{\quad} = 11 = 2$ · $10 + \underline{\quad} = 16 = 6$ · $8 + \underline{\quad} = 17 = 9$