Number Riddles: Starter

Grade 2 · Numbers up to 100 · Starter ()

Grade 2 · Up to 100

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read each riddle carefully and work backward from the final result to find the starting number.



Max's Tip
When working backward, addition turns into subtraction—and doubling turns into halving!

a) I am thinking of a number. I add 12. I subtract 5. I get 21. What is the number?

? —+12— ☐ —-5— 21 Number: ☐

b) Max is thinking of a number. I subtract 8. I add 15. I get 32. What is the number?

? —-8— ☐ —+15— 32 Number: ☐

c) Flip is looking for a number. I double the number. I add 6. I get 26. What is the number?

? —×2— ☐ —+6— 26 Number: ☐

d) I am thinking of a number. I add 9. I double the number. I get 40. What is the number?

? —+9— ☐ —×2— 40 Number: ☐

e) Max is thinking of a number. I double the number. I subtract 7. I get 29. What is the number?

? —×2— ☐ —-7— 29 Number: ☐

f) Flip is looking for a number. I halve the number. I add 14. I get 30. What is the number?

? —÷2— ☐ —+14— 30 Number: ☐

© Flip & Max · Free for home & classroom use (non-commercial)

Great job! 

Number Riddles: Starter

Grade 2 · Numbers up to 100 · Starter ()

Grade 2 · Up to 100

Answer Key

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read each riddle carefully and work backward from the final result to find the starting number.



Max's Tip
When working backward, addition turns into subtraction—and doubling turns into halving!

a) I am thinking of a number. I add 12. I subtract 5. I get 21. What is the number?

14 —+12→ 26 —-5→ 21 Number: **14**

b) Max is thinking of a number. I subtract 8. I add 15. I get 32. What is the number?

25 —-8→ 17 —+15→ 32 Number: **25**

c) Flip is looking for a number. I double the number. I add 6. I get 26. What is the number?

10 —×2→ 20 —+6→ 26 Number: **10**

d) I am thinking of a number. I add 9. I double the number. I get 40. What is the number?

11 —+9→ 20 —×2→ 40 Number: **11**

e) Max is thinking of a number. I double the number. I subtract 7. I get 29. What is the number?

18 —×2→ 36 —-7→ 29 Number: **18**

f) Flip is looking for a number. I halve the number. I add 14. I get 30. What is the number?

32 —÷2→ 16 —+14→ 30 Number: **32**

© Flip & Max · Free for home & classroom use (non-commercial)

Great job! ☆☆☆