

# Distributive Property Word Problem

Distributive Property Word Problem Unlocking the Power of the Distributive Property Word Problems Made Easy Ever felt like math problems just threw a bunch of numbers at you and said figure it out Well when it comes to the distributive property you're actually handed a superpower to simplify things Imagine you're at the grocery store You need 3 bags of chips and 2 bottles of soda Each bag of chips costs 2 and each soda costs 150 How do you figure out the total cost without adding everything separately This is where the distributive property comes in Its like a magic trick that lets you break down complex calculations into simpler ones What is the Distributive Property In simple terms the distributive property allows you to multiply a sum by a number by multiplying each term inside the sum separately It looks like this  $a(b+c) = ab+ac$  The number outside the parentheses  $b$  and  $c$  The terms inside the parentheses Lets apply this to our grocery shopping scenario Total cost  $3(2) + 2(150) = 6 + 300 = 306$  Total cost 6 3 Total cost 9 See how easy that was Instead of multiplying the quantities by the prices and then adding them up we used the distributive property to distribute the multiplication across the sum Applying the Distributive Property to Word Problems Word problems can often be tricky but the distributive property provides a powerful tool to make them easier Heres how you can apply it

- 1 Identify the Key Information Read the problem carefully and determine the quantities and values involved
- 2 Translate the Problem Represent the information using variables and mathematical expressions
- 3 Apply the Distributive Property Use the distributive property to simplify the expressions
- 4 Solve for the Unknown Perform the necessary calculations to find the solution Heres an example Problem Sarah is buying 5 boxes of crayons each containing 8 crayons and 3 boxes of markers each containing 12 markers How many total crayons and markers does Sarah have Solution Key information 5 boxes of crayons 8 crayons each 3 boxes of markers 12 markers each Translation Total crayons  $5 \times 8 = 40$  Total markers  $3 \times 12 = 36$  Applying the Distributive Property not needed in this case but can be helpful for more complex problems We can combine the terms Total crayons and markers  $40 + 36 = 76$  Solution Total crayons 40 Total markers 36 Total crayons and markers 40 36 76
- 5 Tips for Solving Distributive Property Word Problems Read carefully Understand the context of the problem and identify the key information Break it down Separate the problem into smaller parts to make it easier to solve Use variables Represent the quantities with variables to make the problem more organized Practice The more you practice the more comfortable you will become with applying the distributive property Beyond Basic Applications The distributive property isnt just for simple word problems Its a fundamental concept in algebra and plays a crucial role in solving equations and simplifying complex expressions Understanding it is essential for success in higherlevel math Conclusion The distributive property is a powerful tool that simplifies calculations and makes solving word problems much easier By understanding its concept and practicing its application you can gain a deeper

understanding of mathematics and unlock a world of possibilities So the next time you face a seemingly complex problem remember the distributive property and 3 use it to your advantage FAQs 1 Can the distributive property be used with subtraction Yes the distributive property applies to both addition and subtraction It can be expressed as  $a(b+c) = ab+ac$  2 What are some real life examples of the distributive property Besides our grocery shopping example you can find the distributive property in action when calculating discounts finding the area of a rectangle or even when figuring out the total cost of a purchase with sales tax 3 Is the distributive property the same as factoring While they're related they are not the same Factoring involves finding the factors of an expression while the distributive property is used to expand expressions 4 How can I improve my understanding of the distributive property Practice solving different types of word problems review examples and consult with your teacher or tutor if you have any questions 5 Is the distributive property only useful in math The concept of distributing a factor over multiple terms is applicable beyond math such as in logic computer programming and even finance Remember the distributive property is your secret weapon for tackling math problems So keep practicing and watch your confidence soar

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