

Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands  
Dept of education, Yap district

ARITHMETIC IS FUN

C. W. Whitcomb

These little English arithmetic problems can be lots of fun for the children.

1. They can solve the problems.
2. They can learn the new English words.
3. They can memorize rhymes they like.
4. They can practice spelling new words.
5. They can have fun reading the problems aloud, individually or in groups.
6. They can practice writing while the teacher dictates the problems.
7. They can change words into numbers (seventeen to 17).
8. They can make up more problems like these.

We can have lots of fun with real arithmetic like this.

Yap District  
March, 1955

1. I saw twenty birds.

They were in the sky.

Then I saw twelve birds.

They were in a tree.

How many did I see?

2. I like yams

And they like me.

First I ate five.

Then I ate three.

How many did I eat?

3. I have seven nuts.

Gasag has three.

You have four nuts.

That is all I see.

How many do we have?

4. Do you like watermelons?

I do too!

Let's eat seven

And give Ken two.

How many did we have?

5. My boat carried twelve fish

Over the sea.

Six jumped into the water.

The rest stayed with me.

How many did I have?

1. I lost three chickens.

Then I found four.

I ate them all

And I have no more.

How many chickens do I have?

2. I drank six coconuts.

Then I drank three.

Then I drank two more

And Oh my! Oh me!

How many did I drink?

3. I like you.

You like me.

I have ten pigs.

You have three.

How many do we have?

4. I jumped nine feet.

Yoruu jumped ten.

I jumped ten more

And fell down again.

How far did I jump?

5. I had ten spears.

I gave four to Yuul.

Then I broke one spear

When it hit a pole.

How many do I have?

1. I can give Iau seven fish.

You can give him four.

That is all we have.

We haven't any more.

How many fish will we give him?

2. Tamag and I

Swam in the sea.

Nine fish bit Tamag.

Seven bit me.

How many fish bit us?

3. Iau caught sixty fish.

That was quite a lot.

Defan caught forty-six.

We put them in a pot.

How many fish did we cook?

4. Open the door

And you will see

Twenty-eight balls

And three spears for me.

How many things are there?

5. I had a pretty flower.

It grew an inch a day.

When it was thirty inches tall

The wind made it sway.

How many days did it grow?

1. I counted my pigs.

I had twenty-seven.

Four ran away

And people ate eleven.

How many do I have?

2. I caught twelve fish

And four got away.

I caught six more,

Then I quit for today.

How many fish do I have?

3. Do you want some taro?

Here are ten for you.

Now I'll give you five more.

I think that will do.

How many do you have?

4. Please bring me five squash.

Then bring me three.

Take them to your mother.

She will thank me.

How many squash will she have?

5. I had sixteen fish.

They were the best.

I ate seven

And you ate the rest.

How many did you eat?

1. Please come to my house.

Come to visit me.

It is two miles by land

And one more by sea.

How far must you come?

2. I had five spears.

Then I broke three.

You gave me two more

And that pleased me.

How many do I have?

3. I carried six balls.

You gave me four more.

Then I dropped five balls

On the hard floor.

How many did I drop?

4. I threw ten spears.

Then I threw four more.

You threw eight spears

At a rock on the shore.

How many spears did we throw?

5. Tomag threw four balls!

Then he threw three.

He threw five more

But he couldn't hit me.

How many balls did he throw?

1. I had five chickens.

Then I lost two.

Tamag gave me six.

I gave four to you.

How many do I have?

2. I bought fourteen pigs.

Then I bought seven.

We ate four.

I gave Tamag eleven.

How many do I have?

3. I had seven pigs

And you gave me three.

Now how many pigs

Can you see?

I can see \_\_\_\_\_.

4. I bought ten hooks.

A fish took three.

I gave six to Pong.

He gave four to me.

How many do I have?

5. I made ten pounds of copra.

It was five cents a pound.

I made ten more

And then sat down.

How much copra did I make?

1. I counted ten pigs.

You counted thirty.

Ken counted seventeen.

They were all dirty.

How many dirty pigs were there?

2. I found some nuts.

They were good to eat.

Seventeen and ten

Lay at my feet.

How many nuts were there?

3. There are many things

That I like to make.

I made seven rings

And thirteen rakes.

How many things did I make?

4. I had twenty hons.

Some were bad.

Nine ran away

And now they are dead.

How many are left?

5. My dog is sick.

He ate too much.

He ate eight fish

And five coconuts.

How many things did he eat?



1. I like to eat mangoes

Fresh from a tree.

First I ate seven,

Then I ate three.

How many did I eat?

2. Why does your stomach hurt?

I had too much to eat.

I ate sixteen mangoes

And two pieces of meat.

How many things did I eat?

3. Did you find my fish hooks?

Two bags were mine.

In one were forty-six.

In the other were nine.

How many fish hooks did I have?

4. If I had eighty yams

And you had forty,

I would catch thirty fish

And we would have a party.

How many things would we have to eat?

5. We had nine mats.

I made four more.

Then I bought sixteen

To put on my floor.

How many mats did we have?

1. I lost my hooks

And I lost my line.

The hooks cost a penny each.

I bought twenty-nine.

How much did I spend?

2. In the typhoon

My copra shed fell down.

I lost sixty pounds of copra

At three cents a pound.

How much did I lose?

3. I bought some cloth

And I made some thus.

At sixty cents each

I'll sell two to you.

How much will they cost?

4. Four yards of red cloth

And three yards of blue

I bought at the store

To give to you.

How many yards will you have?

5. I can't make copra

And I can't gather trochus.

But I made four skirts

And seventeen purses.

How many things did I make?

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And seventeen purses.

How many things did I make?

1. I must go to the store.

It is very far away.

I will buy ten bars of soap

At five cents apiece.

How much must I pay?

2. I went to the store

To buy ten pounds of rice.

It was twelve cents a pound.

It was clean and nice.

How much did my rice cost?

3. I bought some fresh coconuts

At two cents apiece.

Tamag sold me forty

And Ken sold me ten.

How much did I pay?

4. I gathered many trochus.

I gathered ninety-nine.

I sold each one for twenty cents

And bought myself some line.

How much money did I have?

5. You gave me forty cents

And I earned five.

Then I earned sixty cents

And spent twenty-nine.

How much did I have left?

1. I looked in the sea.

I saw forty men.

Sixteen of them

Came out again.

How many stayed in?

2. Some cloth is red. Some cloth is blue.

I have twenty yards of cloth

That I will sell to you.

It costs thirty cents a yard.

How much must you pay?

3. I found a dime

And I found a dollar.

I'll give half to you

And half to my father.

How much will you get?

4. I jumped in the sea

And jumped out again.

I saw thirty sharks

And fifteen shark fins.

How many sharks did I see?

5. I saw some flies

And killed them all.

Six were on the table.

Sixty were on the wall.

How many did I kill?

1. One day I earned forty cents,  
And then I lost four  
I spent nineteen cents!  
I wish I had more!  
How much did I have left?

2. I spent all my money  
So I tried to earn some more.  
I made copra and earned one dollar.  
And then I earned twenty cents more.  
How much money did I earn?

3. I like to work, and I like to play.  
I made my share of copra today.  
I made eighty pounds and had to rest.  
It was five cents a pound; it was the best.  
How much money did I make?

4. My father went fishing.  
He came home today.  
He brought eighty-eight fish.  
He gave twelve away.  
How many did he have left?

5. I went to the store  
And bought some things.  
I spent sixty cents for rice  
And ninety cents for fish.  
How much did I spend?

1. Temag had forty fish.

Then he went to swim.

Twenty jumped back in the sea.

What did that leave him?

\_\_\_\_\_ fish.

2. Four of us bought thirty hooks.

Taley bought five.

Chon bought seven.

I bought nine.

How many did you buy?

3. My job is making copra.

It is lots of fun.

First I made one hundred pounds.

Then I made sixty-one.

How much copra did I make?

4. My job is selling trochus.

I like to sell.

Last week I sold eighty pounds

and all went well.

How much did I make if trochus  
was 18¢ a pound?

5. I sold twenty pounds of copra.

It was all I found.

How much money did I make

at five cents a pound?

I made \_\_\_\_\_.

1. My friend is a big man.

He is older than I.

I am only ten.

He is forty-five.

How much older is he?

2. Chon is seventeen.

I am only twelve.

Tamag is twenty-three.

Ken is seven.

Who is the oldest?

3. I have a white cat.

She has five kittens.

You have a black cat.

She has twelve kittens.

How many cats and kittens do

we have?

4. I caught seven rats.

You caught none.

Magamy caught fourteen.

Iou caught one.

How many rats did we catch?

5. I earned five cents.

Iou earned a dime.

Chon earned four cents.

We bought some fish line.

How much did we earn?



1. I have six.

You have five.

She has seven

More than I.

How many does she have?

2. I have ten.

You have twenty.

She has nineteen

And that is plenty.

How many do we have together?

3. He has ten.

You have twenty-two.

And I have

Six less than you.

How many do I have?

4. He has twelve.

She has five.

Together they have

The same as I.

How many do I have?

5. First I add ten,

Then I add eleven.

I take four away

And that leaves \_\_\_\_\_.

How many do I have?

1. We had a race catching fish.  
You caught four.  
I caught six.  
Then we gave five fish away.  
How many fish do we have today?

2. Gorong caught nine fish.  
Then he caught four.  
I gave him twelve  
And then six more.  
How many does he have all together?

3. Taley walked ten feet.  
Gorong walked seven.  
Nuuan walked eight feet.  
Monggur walked eleven.  
Who walked the farthest?

4. Take five steps.  
Take ~~ten~~ steps more!  
Then take three steps  
And open the door.  
How many steps did you take?

5. Your spear is eight feet long.  
Mine is two feet longer.  
Gasag's spear is sixteen feet.  
Whose is the longest?

1. My oldest boy is seventeen.

My oldest girl is twenty-one.

My youngest girl is thirteen.

My baby is just one.

How old are they all together?

2. Chon slept for fourteen hours.

I slept for only eight.

If I sleep so very long

I feel as if I'm sick.

How much longer did Chon sleep  
than I did?

3. I had a string eight feet long.

I cut it in the middle.

Then I gave one piece to you.

It wasn't very little.

How big was it?

4. Two things make a pair.

Twelve things make a dozen.

First I made five pair of spears.

Then I made two dozen.

How many did I make?

5. I moved my pencil one inch.

Then I moved it four.

I moved it over to the left

Seven inches more.

How many feet did I move it?

1. I fell down a hill.

I fell seven feet.

I climbed up the hill

And fell down again.

How many feet did I fall

all together?

2. I am making a house.

I am making a door.

I measured two feet

And six inches more.

How many inches did I measure?

3. I like to measure.

I like to play.

I measured ten feet

Three times today.

How many feet did I measure

all together?

4. Can you jump four feet?

Can you jump ten inches?

How many feet

Is forty-eight inches?

Forty-eight inches equals \_\_\_\_\_ feet.

5. Can you measure inches?

Can you measure feet?

How many inches

Is two and one-half feet?

Two and one-half feet equals \_\_\_\_\_ inches.

1. I like my job.

I count money.

I counted five dimes

And fifteen pennies.

How much money did I count?

2. I went to the store

To buy some things.

I spent a quarter

And two dimes.

How much did I spend?

3. I found a dime.

Then I found a nickel.

I lost the dime

And spent the nickel.

How much did I spend?

4. Five nickels make a quarter.

Ten pennies make a dime.

Give me a half-dollar

To buy some line.

How many dimes are there in a  
half-dollar?

5. I earned fifty cents.

Then I earned seventy-five.

I gave my fifty cents

To Dadgug.

How many dollars did I give her?

1. I don't weigh much.  
I am not very heavy.  
I weigh forty pounds.  
You are twice as heavy.  
How much do you weigh?

2. I lifted a box.  
It weighed forty pounds.  
I took out twenty  
And carried the rest to town.  
How many pounds did I carry?

3. Gojong weighs sixty pounds.  
Yuul is twelve pounds heavier.  
Chon weighs fifty-four.  
I am ten pounds lighter.  
How much do I weigh?

4. If you eat enough  
You will get heavy.  
Now you weigh forty pounds.  
You will soon weigh sixty.  
How much will you gain?

5. First I drew a circle.  
Then I drew a square.  
Then I took three straight lines  
And put them together.  
What did I draw?