

NUMBER

RIDDLES



What's my number?

Read each clue and follow the math to find the answer.

Hint: try reading the clue backward.

ANSWERS

1. Subtract 5 from me. Then add 2. If you subtract 10 and then add 3, you get 15. What number am I?

work backward:

$$15 - 3 + 10 - 2 + 5 = 25$$

pre-algebra:

$$x - 5 + 2 - 10 + 3 = 15$$

$$x - 15 + 5 = 15$$

$$x - 10 = 15$$

$$x = 25$$

2. Add 7 to me. Then subtract 10. If you subtract 5 and then add 9, you get 14. What number am I?

work backward:

$$14 - 9 + 5 + 10 - 7 = 13$$

pre-algebra:

$$x + 7 - 10 - 5 + 9 = 14$$

$$x + 16 - 15 = 14$$

$$x + 1 = 14$$

$$x = 13$$

3. Add 12 to me. Then add another 12. If you subtract 9 and then add 7, you get 24. What number am I?

work backward:

$$24 - 7 + 9 - 12 - 12 = 2$$

pre-algebra:

$$x + 12 + 12 - 9 + 7 = 24$$

$$x + 31 - 9 = 24$$

$$x + 22 = 24$$

$$x = 2$$

4. Subtract 8 from me. Then add 9. If you add 12 and then subtract 4, you get 18. What number am I?

work backward:

$$18 + 4 - 12 - 9 + 8 = 9$$

pre-algebra:

$$x - 8 + 9 + 12 - 4 = 18$$

$$x - 12 + 21 = 18$$

$$x + 9 = 18$$

$$x = 9$$