Date _____

Algebra Word Problem Lesson and Practice Worksheet

Write a number sentence(s) for the problem.

4 children are playing tennis together. They all brought 3 balls each. 2 children lost 1 ball each. How many balls do they have now?



Carefully read the problem and write the number sentence.

Since there are 4 children and each of them brought 3 balls, the number sentence for this part of the problem is:

$$(4 \times 3)$$

Now read the next part of the problem- 2 of them lost 1 ball each, so the number sentence for this part of the problem is:

$$(2 \times 1)$$

We have to find how many balls are there now. So the number sentence now would be: Total number of balls initially present - number of balls lost

$$(4 \times 3) - (2 \times 1) = 10$$

Or this number sentence can also be written in another way:

The number of children who have 3 balls + Number of children who have 2 balls (as they lost 1 ball)

$$(2 \times 3) + (2 \times 2) = 10$$

Answer:
$$(4 \times 3) - (2 \times 1)$$
 or $(2 \times 3) + (2 \times 2) = 10$

Practice Problems

- There are 5 candies in each of 28 bags. Sandra puts 2 more candies in 8 bags. How many candies are there in all?
- Fred usually eats 3 meals a day. How many meals does he eat in a week?