S • I • G • N • S

Watanabe, 1991

Survey the question.
Read the question, and underline the numbers
Hint: Don’t forget about words that mean numbers!

Identify key words & labels.
Look for key words like “in all”, “more than”, “less than”, “left”.
Labels are words that describe the objects being manipulated (i.e. apples, pencils).

Graphically draw the problem.
Represent the problem visually with a graph or drawing.

Note operation(s) needed.
Think about the operation suggested by the key words (ex: addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division). Write the problem as an equation.

Solve and check the problem.
Solve then check that your answer makes sense.