THE LANGUAGE OF MATHS

Addition words

+	the plus sign, for 'add' (2 + 1 = 3)
addition	counting up or finding the sum of two or more numbers (3 add 3 = 6)
altogether	to find how many there are 'altogether', add them all up (10 + 2 + 3 = 15, so there are 15 altogether)
greater than	bigger or more than (4 greater than 5 = 9)
more than	'6 more than 3' is the same as '6 and then 3 more' (6 more than 3 = 9)
plus	add, also shown as '+' (8 plus 8 = 16 or 8 + 8 = 16)
sum	to find the sum, add up all the numbers (the sum of 2 and 4 = 6)
total	'count' or 'add' (the total of 4, 2 and 3 = 9)

How many more than 3 is 5? Answer: 2

Subtraction words

–	the minus sign, for 'subtract' or 'take away' (4 – 2 = 2)
difference	to find the difference between numbers, compare them. There are two ways to find the difference between 8 and 3. Count on from the smaller number 3 to the larger number 8 or write down the larger amount and take the smaller amount away from it. (The difference between 8 and 3 is 5.)
fewer than	less than (3 fewer than 7 is 4)
less than	fewer than, or not as many (4 less than 5 is 1)
minus	take away (8 minus 5 = 3 or 8 – 5 = 3)
subtraction	'taking away' – the answer is the number you have left (You have 6 eggs. You subtract 2. You have 4 left.)
take away	subtract or minus. Sometimes '6 minus 4' will be written as 'take 4 from 6'. Write down the 6 first so that you can take 4 away from it. (6 – 4 = 2 or 6 take away 4 = 2)

What is left when you take 2 from 4? Answer: 2

Multiplication words

×	the multiplication sign, for 'multiply' or 'times' (4 × 2 = 8)
multiply	to times one number by another. 2 × 6 means '2 multiplied by 6' or '2 times 6' (multiply 2 by 6)
multiplication	a quick way to add up equal sets
times	can mean 'multiplied by' (4 times 2 is 8 or 4 × 2 = 8)

Division words

÷	the division sign, for 'divide by' (9 ÷ 3 = 3)
dividing	splitting things into equal groups. You can split 6 into 2 equal groups, with 3 in each. (6 ÷ 2 = 3 or divide 6 by 2 = 3)
share	another way of 'dividing' or 'splitting up' (share 10 coins between 5 people)

How many 2s in 8? Answer: 4

Equals

=	the equals sign, for 'makes' or 'is the same as' (5 add 3 = 8 or 5 add 3 is the same as 8 or 5 add 3 makes 8)

Fractions

half ($\frac{1}{2}$)	divide something into two equal pieces, and each piece is called a half
quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$)	divide something into four equal pieces, and each piece is called a quarter