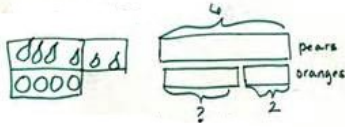There are 2 more pears than oranges.
If there are 6 pears, how many
oranges are there?

Math Word Problems

What kind of problem is it? Here are some key words and phrases that will help you decide what to do.

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Key words that point to Addition

added to
altogether
combine
complete
entire
exceeds
expands
greater than
heavier
in all
increased by
longer
more, more than
older
plus
profit
sum, the sum of
taller
total
wider

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Key words that point to Subtraction

amount left
balance
decreased by
difference
difference between
how much less?
how much more?
less
less than
loss
lower
minus
reduced by
savings
shrinks
slower
smaller than
subtracted from
take away
younger

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Key words that point to Multiplication

altogether
average
combined
each
half
how many?
how much?
in all
multiplied by
of
per
product
the product of
times
total
triple (multiplied by 3)
twice (multiplied by 2)

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Key words that point to Division

divide
divided by
divided into
find the ___ per ___ *e.g. price per litre*
find the average
find the unit price
half of (divided by 2)
per
separated
shared
split
third of (divided by 3)