

National Mathematics Day (India)

Solution

If you look closely, you might see some numbers...

Splenda, e.g. [9]
+ interconnected system [7]
+ it's the best policy [7]
= _____

a guest on a calendar invite [8]
- made by Papyrus or Smythson [10]
= _____

a racket based sport [6]
× arboreal debris floating on a river [9]
= _____

(dog [6] + currency [5])
× what is often displayed in a gallery [7]
= _____

a type of train to transport goods [7]
- deserving of faith [11]
- a blade at the end of a rifle [7]
= _____

one dimension of volume [6]
÷ a moth larva that feeds on plants [7]
+ person on the receiving end of a conversation [8]
= _____

Solution Explained

Answer: XXXXXXXXXX

My intention is for puzzlers to first attempt to solve some of the clues into words. It's expected that some are easily searchable, and some are more easily solvable once a pattern is established for the words. In this case, the pattern is clued in the phrase "see some numbers..." Here are the words that the clues solve to:

- Splenda, e.g. [9] → SWEETENER
- + interconnected system [7] → NETWORK
- + it's the best policy [7] → HONESTY

- a guest on a calendar invite [8] → ATTENDEE
- made by Papyrus or Smythson [10] → STATIONERY

- a racket based sport [6] → TENNIS
- × arboreal debris floating on a river [9] → DRIFTWOOD

- (dog [6] + currency [5]) → CANINE + MONEY
- × what is often displayed in a gallery [7] → ARTWORK

- a type of train to transport goods [7] → FREIGHT
- deserving of faith [11] → TRUSTWORTHY
- a blade at the end of a rifle [7] → BAYONET

- one dimension of volume [6] → HEIGHT
- ÷ a moth larva that feeds on plants [7] → CUTWORM
- + person on the receiving end of a conversation [8] → LISTENER

Once you solve the words, you may notice that there are numbers embedded in words in their word forms:

SWEET**T**ENER
NET**W**ORK
HON**E**STY
ATT**E**NDEE
STATION**E**RY
TENNIS
DRIFT**T**WOOD
CAN**I**NE
MON**E**Y
ART**W**ORK
FRE**I**GHT
TRUST**T**WORTHY
BAY**O**NET
HE**I**GHT

CUT**T**WORM
LIST**T**ENER

The next step is to substitute these word clues into their number forms and solve the equations and finally map them back to letters by taking that number letter of the alphabet:

Splenda, e.g. [9] → SWEET**T**ENER → 10
+ interconnected system [7] → NET**T**WORK → 2
+ it's the best policy [7] → HON**T**ESTY → 1
= 13 → **M**

a guest on a calendar invite [8] → ATT**T**ENDEE → 10
- made by Papyrus or Smythson [10] → STAT**T**IONERY → 1
= 9 → **I**

a racket based sport [6] → **T**ENNIS → 10
× arboreal debris floating on a river [9] → DRIFT**T**WOOD → 2
= 20 → **T**

(dog [6] + currency [5]) → CAN**T**INE + M**T**ONEY → (9 + 1)
× what is often displayed in a gallery [7] → ART**T**WORK → 2
= 20 → **T**

a type of train to transport goods [7] → FRE**T**IGHT → 8
- deserving of faith [11] → TRUST**T**WORTHY → 2
- a blade at the end of a rifle [7] → BAY**T**ONET → 1
= 5 → **E**

one dimension of volume [6] → HE**T**IGHT → 8
÷ a moth larva that feeds on plants [7] → CUT**T**WORM → 2
+ person on the receiving end of a conversation [8] → LIST**T**ENER → 10
= 14 → **N**

The final answer is **MITTEN**.