

The Golden Apples



A prince picked a basketful of golden apples in the enchanted orchard.

On his way home, he was stopped by a troll who guarded the orchard. The troll demanded payment of one-half of the apples, plus two more. The prince gave him the apples and set off again.

A little further on, a second troll guard stopped the prince and demanded payment of one-half of the apples the prince now had, plus two more. The prince paid the troll and set off again.

Just before leaving the enchanted orchard, a third troll stopped the prince and demanded one-half of his remaining apples plus two more. The prince paid him and returned home. He had only two golden apples left.

How many apples did the prince pick?

