MATHEMATICS · GRADES 4-6

Multi-digit addition and subtraction

Difficulty level: Intermediate

Mathematics: Grades 4-6

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Overview of the concept

This is how you add and subtract larger numbers exactly, like totalling a bill or working out change from a payment. Small numbers you can do in your head, but bigger ones need a reliable written method that works every time. You use it to total a grocery bill, to check a bank statement, or to work out the change from a large payment without guessing.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q 456 + 278 = ?

```
  456
+ 278
-----
    ?
```

SOLUTION

Add the ones: 6 + 8 = 14. Write 4 and carry 1 ten.

Add the tens: 5 + 7 + 1 = 13. Write 3 and carry 1 hundred.

Add the hundreds: 4 + 2 + 1 = 7. Total: 734

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EXAMPLE 2

Q 703 - 268 = ?

```
  703
- 268
-----
    ?
```

SOLUTION

Ones: borrow from the tens, so 13 - 8 = 5

Tens: after borrowing, 9 - 6 = 3. (The zero tens became ten, then gave one away.)

Hundreds: 6 - 2 = 4. Total: 435

Practice questions

1 A school library has 347 books on one shelf and 265 on another. How many books is that in all?

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2 A baker makes 815 buns in the morning and sells 379. How many buns are left?

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3 Two classes collect cans for recycling. One class collects 385 cans, the other collects 246, and a third class collects 150. How many cans did they collect together?

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4 A train travels 512 km on Monday and 389 km on Tuesday. How much farther did it travel on Monday than on Tuesday?

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5 A shop has 625 pencils. It sells 178 in one week and 96 the next week. How many pencils are left?

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6 Maya scores 296 points in a game. Noah scores 61 more points than Maya. How many points does Noah score?

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7 A farmer picks 804 apples and packs some of them into boxes. 237 apples are not packed yet. How many apples did he pack?

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8 A hall holds 900 people. If 456 people are already seated, how many more seats are free?

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9 A book has 345 pages. Sara has read 129 pages. How many more pages does she need to read to reach 300 pages?

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10 A gardener plants 468 tulips and 275 daffodils. She plants 150 more tulips the next day. How many tulips did she plant in all?

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ANSWER KEY

1. 612

2. 436

3. 781

4. 123

5. 351

6. 357

7. 567

8. 444

9. 171

10. 618

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