



Ace Your Math Test

# ADDITION and SUBTRACTION



## Ace Your Math Test

Rebecca  
Wingard-Nelson

# About this Book

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## DON'T SWEAT THE TEST!

Having a problem with math? Nervous about your test? This book introduces all the topics you need to know about addition and subtraction. Learn great test-taking tips for solving multiple choice, short-answer, and show-your-work questions. A great book for students to use on their own, or with parents, teachers, or tutors.

"This book is a must read for anyone who is having trouble with addition or subtraction. It's a great review for standardized test preparation, too."

—Patricia Leonard, MS, Series Math Consultant  
Middle School Math Professional

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## About The Author

**AUTHOR REBECCA WINGARD-NELSON** has worked in public, private, and home-school mathematics education. She has been involved in various educational math projects, including developing and writing state assessment tests, exit exams, and proficiency tests, as well as writing and editing textbooks and workbooks.



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# CONTENTS

---

Cover

About this Book

Title Page

---

Test-Taking Tips

Be Prepared!

*Practice*

Test Day!

*The Night Before*

*The Big Day*

Test Time!

Let's Go!

*Chapter 1: Whole Number Addition*

Definitions

Count Up

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

Test-Taking Hint

Know the Facts

Test-Taking Hint

TEST TIME: Explain Your Answer

*Chapter 2: Greater Number Addition*

Place Value

TEST TIME: Show Your Work

---

Test-Taking Hint

Different Digits

Test-Taking Hint

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

### *Chapter 3: Regrouping*

Basic Facts

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

Test-Taking Hint

Definition

More Addends

Test-Taking Hint

TEST TIME: Show Your Work

### *Chapter 4: Multi-digit Regrouping*

Regrouping

TEST TIME: Explain Your Answer

Regrouping More than Once

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

Test-Taking Hint

### *Chapter 5: Addition Properties*

The Commutative Property

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

The Zero Property

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

TEST TIME: Explain Your Answer

---

Test-Taking Hint

## *Chapter 6: Whole Number Subtraction*

Definitions

Basic Subtraction

TEST TIME: Show Your Work

Test-Taking Hint

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

Subtracting Zero

Test-Taking Hint

## *Chapter 7: Inverse Operations*

Addition and Subtraction

Test-Taking Hint

TEST TIME: Show Your Work

Addition and Subtraction

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

Test-Taking Hint

## *Chapter 8: Subtracting Larger Numbers*

Place Value

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

Greater Numbers

TEST TIME: Show Your Work

Test-Taking Hint

## Chapter 9: Subtraction Regrouping

---

Borrowing

TEST TIME: Explain Your Answer

Regrouping in Subtraction

TEST TIME: Show Your Work

Test-Taking Hint

## Chapter 10: More Regrouping

Regrouping Hundreds

TEST TIME: Show Your Work

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

Test-Taking Hint

Subtraction Across Zeros

## Chapter 11: Mental Math: Addition

Definition

Multiples of Ten

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

TEST TIME: Explain Your Answer

Test-Taking Hint

Give and Take

## Chapter 12: Mental Math: Subtraction

Count Up

Test-Taking Hint

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

Nines

Test-Taking Hint

---

Test-Taking Hint

TEST TIME: Explain Your Answer

### *Chapter 13: Decimal Addition*

Definition

Place Value

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

Adding Money

Test-Taking Hint

TEST TIME: Show Your Work

### *Chapter 14: Decimal Subtraction*

Definitions

Subtracting by Place Value

TEST TIME: Show Your Work

Subtracting with Zeros

Test-Taking Hint

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

### *Chapter 15: Integer Addition*

Definitions

Like Integers

Negative Numbers

TEST TIME: Show Your Work

Unlike Integers

Test-Taking Hint



*Chapter 16: Integer Subtraction*

Inverse Operations

Test-Taking Hint

TEST TIME: Show Your Work

TEST TIME: Explain Your Answer

Subtracting Like Integers

*Chapter 17: Fraction Addition*

Definitions

Like Fractions

Definition

TEST TIME: Show Your Work

Definition

TEST TIME: Explain Your Answer

Unlike Fractions

*Chapter 18: Mixed Fraction Addition*

Definitions

Like Mixed Fractions

Test-Taking Hint

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

Unlike Mixed Fractions

Test-Taking Hint

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

## *Chapter 19: Fraction Subtraction*

---

Subtracting Like Fractions

Test-Taking Hint

TEST TIME: Show Your Work

Unlike Fractions

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

## *Chapter 20: Mixed Fraction Subtraction*

TEST TIME: Show Your Work

Test-Taking Hint

Regrouping Mixed Fractions

TEST TIME: Show Your Work

Test-Taking Hint

Test-Taking Hint

Unlike Mixed Fractions

## *Chapter 21: Adding Measurements*

Like Units

TEST TIME: Explain Your Answer

Length

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

Test-Taking Hint

## *Chapter 22: Subtracting Measurements*

Weight

Test-Taking Hint

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

Time

---

TEST TIME: Show Your Work

Test-Taking Hint

### *Chapter 23: Estimation: Addition*

Definition

Rounding

Test-Taking Hint

TEST TIME: Multiple Choice

Test-Taking Hint

Estimate Fractions

TEST TIME: Show Your Work

Test-Taking Hint

### *Chapter 24: Estimation: Subtraction*

Estimating with Decimals

Test-Taking Hint

TEST TIME: Explain Your Answer

Definition

Greatest Place Value

TEST TIME: Show Your Work

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Further Reading

Internet Addresses

Index

Copyright

More Books from Enslow

# Test-Taking Tips

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## Be Prepared!

Most of the topics that are found on math tests are taught in the classroom. Paying attention in class, taking good notes, and keeping up with your homework are the best ways to be prepared for tests.

### *Practice*

Use test preparation materials, such as flash cards and timed worksheets, to practice your basic math skills. Take practice tests. They show the kinds of items that will be on the actual test. They can show you what areas you understand, and what areas you need more practice in.

## Test Day!

### *The Night Before*

Relax. Eat a good meal. Go to bed early enough to get a good night's sleep. Don't cram on new material! Review the material you know is going to be on the test.

Get what you need ready. Sharpen your pencils, and set out things like erasers, a calculator, and any extra materials, like books, protractors, tissues, or cough drops.

### *The Big Day*

Get up early enough to eat breakfast and not have to hurry. Wear something that is comfortable and makes you feel good. Listen to your favorite music.

Get to school and class on time. Stay calm. Stay positive.

## Test Time!

Before you begin, take a deep breath. Focus on the test, not the people or things around you. Remind yourself to do your best and not worry about what you do not know.

Work through the entire test, but don't spend too much time on any one problem. Don't rush, but move quickly, answering all of the questions you can do easily. Go back a second time and answer the questions that take more time.

Read each question completely. Read all the answer choices. Eliminate answers that are obviously wrong. Read word problems carefully, and decide what the problem is asking.

Check each answer to make sure it is reasonable. Estimate numbers to see if your answer makes sense.

Concentrate on the test. Stay focused. If your attention starts to wander, take a short break. Breathe. Relax. Refocus. ~~Don't get upset if you can't answer a question. Mark it, then come back to it later.~~

When you finish, look back over the entire test. Are all of the questions answered? Check as many problems as you can. Look at your calculations and make sure you have the same answer on the blank as you do on your worksheet.

## Let's Go!

Three common types of test problems are covered in this book: Multiple Choice, Show Your Work, and Explain Your Answer. Tips on how to solve each, as well as common errors to avoid, are also presented. Knowing what to expect on a test and what is expected of you will have you ready to ace every math test you take.

# Whole Number Addition

## *Definitions*

*addend: The number that is being added.*

*sum: The answer in an addition problem.*

## Count Up

*Stephanie played 4 video games before dinner. Later that night, she played 3 more video games. How many video games did Stephanie play in all?*

**Step 1:** One way to add is to using counting. Start with the first number. Stephanie played 4 video games.

4

**Step 2:** Stephanie played 3 more video games. Start with 4, then count up 3 more.

4, 5, 6, 7

Stephanie played 7 video games in all.

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What is the sum of 6 and 2?

- a. 5
- b. 6
- c. 7
- d. 8

A sum is a total, or the answer to an addition problem.

Add 6 and 2. You can add by counting up 2 more from 6.

You could also use a drawing or use items, such as your fingers, to add. Draw 6 and 2. Count to find the total.



**Solution:** The correct answer is d.

### Test-Taking Hint

*Multiple choice questions give you a set of answers. You choose which of the given answers is correct.*

## Know the Facts

**Addition is the basis of all of the other operations.**

**Subtraction is the opposite of addition.**

**Multiplication is repeated addition.**

**Division is repeated subtraction.**

*What are the addition facts up to 5 for 3s?*

**Step 1:** The problem is asking you to show all the addition facts that add 3 and 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Write each problem.

$3 + 0 =$

$3 + 1 =$

$3 + 2 =$

$3 + 3 =$

$3 + 4 =$

$3 + 5 =$



**Step 2:** Find the sum for each addition fact.

---

$3 + 0 = 3$

$3 + 1 = 4$

$3 + 2 = 5$

$3 + 3 = 6$

$3 + 4 = 7$

$3 + 5 = 8$

**Memorize the addition facts for the numbers 0 to 10. Knowing the facts will make test taking fast and easy.**

### *Test-Taking Hint*

*Some problems ask a question and ask you to explain your answer. Others just ask for an explanation. Your score is based on both a correct response and how clearly you explain your reasoning.*

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*Chris made a stash of 7 snowballs to throw at his brother. While he hid behind a tree and waited, he made 3 more. How many snowballs did Chris make? How did you decide?*

**Solution:** This problem starts with some snowballs, then more are added. Start with the number Chris made first. Add the number he made while hiding.

$$7 + 3 = 10$$

Chris made 10 snowballs.

Problems that use words like **increase**, **more**, **sum**, or **combined** may be addition problems. Addition problems take two or more values and combine them.

# Greater Number Addition

## Place Value

Add  $12 + 32$

**Step 1:** Adding numbers that have more than one digit is done using place value. Line up the numbers in a column by their place value.

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{tens} \\ \text{ones} \\ 12 \\ + 32 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

**Step 2:** Add each place value from right to left. Add the ones.

$$\begin{array}{r} 12 \\ + 32 \\ \hline 4 \end{array}$$

**Step 3:** Add the tens.

$$\begin{array}{r} 12 \\ + 32 \\ \hline 44 \end{array}$$

$$12 + 32 = 44$$

---



***Dr. Minton is a scientist who studies butterflies and moths. He has a collection of 3,248 butterflies and 5,710 moths. How many butterflies and moths does he have altogether?***

This is an addition problem. You can add any size numbers using place value. Line up the numbers by place value. Add each place, beginning on the right with the ones place.

**Solution:**

$$\begin{array}{r} 3,248 \\ + 5,710 \\ \hline 8,958 \end{array}$$

Dr. Minton has 8,958 butterflies and moths.

### ***Test-Taking Hint***

***Questions that ask you to show how you found the solution are sometimes called “Show Your Work” or “Short Answer” questions. Showing your work and showing some effort will earn you part of the credit, even if you have the wrong answer. The right answer, without showing some work, may only give you partial credit.***

## **Different Digits**

**Add  $3,821 + 74$**

**Step 1:** When the addends have a different number of digits, be very careful to line up the place values.

$$\begin{array}{r} 3,821 \\ + \quad 74 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

**Step 2:** Add each place value from right to left. Add the ones, then tens, then hundreds, then thousands.

---

$$\begin{array}{r} 3,821 \\ + \quad 74 \\ \hline 3,895 \end{array}$$

$$3,821 + 74 = 3,895$$

### *Test-Taking Hint*

*An answer in a multiple choice problem might look correct if you go too quickly.  
Often the wrong answers listed are ones you would find if you made a common error.*

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*Michael has 12 blue T-shirts, 5 red T-shirts, and 20 black T-shirts. How many T-shirts does Michael have in all?*

- a. 19
- b. 32
- c. 37
- d. 82

Addition problems with more than two addends are added using place value. Line up the numbers by place value. Add each place, beginning on the right with the ones place.

**Solution:** The correct answer is c.

# Regrouping

## Basic Facts

Some of the basic addition facts have two-digit sums.

*What is  $8 + 3$ ?*

**Step 1:** Use a drawing to help you understand the addition.



**Step 2:** Combine the two sets of circles. Count the combined number.



**Step 3:** When you write the problem in a column, you see that the sum is a two-digit number. The sum carries over into the tens column. When the sum of a column carries into the next column, it is called regrouping. You can regroup 11 ones as 1 ten and 1 one.

$$\begin{array}{r} 8 \\ + 3 \\ \hline 11 \end{array}$$

## TEST TIME: Multiple Choice



Anita has 5 cats. One of her cats had 7 kittens. How many cats does Anita have now?

- a. 5
- b. 7
- c. 10
- d. 12

Anita started with 5 cats. Then she added 7 more. This is an addition problem. You can eliminate answers a and b by understanding that they are the addends, and the sum must be larger than either addend. Add  $5 + 7 = 12$ .

**Solution:** Anita has 12 cats now. Answer d is correct.

### Test-Taking Hint

*Read problems carefully. Decide how you can use the information given to solve the problem.*

### Definition

*regrouping: Using place value to rename values. For example: 20 ones can be regrouped as 2 tens, and 10 tens can be regrouped as 1 hundred.*

## More Addends

Add  $7 + 9 + 5$

**Step 1:** Use a drawing to help you understand the addition.



**Step 2:** Count the total number of circles.



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