



Ace Your Math Test

ADDITION and SUBTRACTION



Ace Your Math Test

Rebecca
Wingard-Nelson

About this Book

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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Test-Taking Tips

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.



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.



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.***



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.

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



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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