

make a ten strategy math

make a ten strategy math is a fundamental technique used in early mathematics education to simplify addition and subtraction problems. This strategy helps students break down numbers to make calculations easier and faster by focusing on combinations that add up to ten. Understanding and applying the make a ten strategy enhances mental math skills and builds a strong foundation for more advanced arithmetic concepts. This article explores the definition, benefits, and practical applications of the make a ten strategy in mathematics. It also provides tips for educators and parents to effectively teach this method to young learners. The comprehensive guide aims to clarify why this approach is essential in developing numerical fluency and confidence in math.

- Understanding the Make a Ten Strategy in Math
- Benefits of Using the Make a Ten Strategy
- How to Teach the Make a Ten Strategy
- Practical Examples and Exercises
- Common Challenges and Solutions

Understanding the Make a Ten Strategy in Math

The make a ten strategy math technique involves rearranging numbers to form a sum of ten, which is easier to work with mentally. It is often used in addition and subtraction to simplify calculations, especially for young learners. For example, when adding $8 + 5$, students can break down 5 into 2 and 3, then add $8 + 2$ to make 10, and finally add the remaining 3 to get 13. This approach leverages the concept of tens as a base in the decimal number system, making it intuitive and efficient for arithmetic operations.

Definition and Concept

The make a ten strategy math method focuses on creating a base of ten from smaller numbers during addition or subtraction. It is rooted in the understanding that ten is a key benchmark number in our number system, making calculations simpler when numbers are adjusted to reach ten first. This concept not only aids in quick mental calculations but also reinforces place value understanding.

Examples in Addition and Subtraction

In addition, make a ten strategy math can be applied by decomposing one addend to complete ten with the other addend. In subtraction, it helps to find the difference by first subtracting to ten and then adjusting the remainder. For instance, to solve $14 - 6$, a student might subtract 4 to reach 10, then subtract the remaining 2, resulting in 8.

Benefits of Using the Make a Ten Strategy

Implementing the make a ten strategy math technique provides several educational advantages. It promotes number sense, encourages flexible thinking, and supports mental math proficiency. This strategy also helps students develop a deeper understanding of the base-ten number system and improves their ability to manipulate numbers confidently.

Enhances Mental Calculation Speed

By rearranging numbers to make ten, calculations become more manageable and faster to perform mentally. This speed is crucial during timed tests and everyday math tasks, reducing reliance on calculators and written methods.

Builds Strong Number Sense

Make a ten strategy math strengthens number sense by encouraging learners to recognize number relationships and patterns. It fosters an intuitive grasp of how numbers combine and separate, which is essential for more complex math topics.

Supports Understanding of Place Value

The strategy directly relates to the base-ten system, helping students appreciate the value of digits depending on their position. Recognizing how numbers can be broken down and recombined reinforces this foundational concept.

How to Teach the Make a Ten Strategy

Effective teaching of the make a ten strategy math involves clear explanations, engaging activities, and consistent practice. Educators and parents can use visual aids, manipulatives, and real-life examples to illustrate how the strategy works. Breaking down the process into simple steps encourages learners to apply the method independently.

Step-by-Step Instruction

Start by explaining the importance of the number ten in the decimal system. Demonstrate how to break down numbers to complete ten using examples. For instance, when adding $7 + 6$, show how 6 can be split into 3 and 3, then add $7 + 3$ to make 10, and finally add the remaining 3.

Use of Manipulatives and Visual Tools

Tools like base-ten blocks, number lines, and counters can make the make a ten strategy math concept tangible. Visualizing the process helps learners understand the decomposition and recombination of numbers effectively.

Incorporating Games and Interactive Exercises

Games that involve making ten, such as matching pairs of numbers to sum to ten, can make learning enjoyable and memorable. Interactive exercises also provide practice opportunities to reinforce the strategy.

Practical Examples and Exercises

Applying the make a ten strategy math through practice problems consolidates understanding and builds confidence. Exercises should include a variety of addition and subtraction problems that encourage breaking numbers apart to make ten.

Sample Addition Problems

- $5 + 8 = (5 + 5) + 3 = 10 + 3 = 13$
- $9 + 6 = (9 + 1) + 5 = 10 + 5 = 15$
- $7 + 5 = (7 + 3) + 2 = 10 + 2 = 12$

Sample Subtraction Problems

- $14 - 7 = (14 - 4) - 3 = 10 - 3 = 7$
- $12 - 8 = (12 - 2) - 6 = 10 - 6 = 4$
- $15 - 6 = (15 - 5) - 1 = 10 - 1 = 9$

Practice Activities

Encourage students to use the make a ten strategy math in daily exercises, such as mental math drills, worksheets, and timed quizzes. Repetition and variety are key to mastery.

Common Challenges and Solutions

While the make a ten strategy math is effective, some learners may face difficulties understanding or applying it. Identifying these challenges and providing targeted support ensures effective learning.

Difficulty in Number Decomposition

Some students struggle to break numbers apart naturally. Using manipulatives and guided practice can help them visualize number decomposition and build confidence.

Confusion with Place Value

Misunderstanding the role of place value can hinder the strategy's application. Reinforcing place value concepts through visual aids and repeated examples clarifies this connection.

Lack of Practice and Reinforcement

Without adequate practice, learners may forget how to use the make a ten strategy math. Regular review sessions and interactive activities maintain skills and encourage automaticity.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 'make a ten' strategy in math?

The 'make a ten' strategy is a mental math technique where numbers are rearranged or broken apart to create a sum of ten, making addition easier and faster.

How does the 'make a ten' strategy help in addition?

It simplifies addition by turning numbers into a base of ten, which is easier to add quickly, especially for young learners.

Can you give an example of using the 'make a ten' strategy?

Yes! For example, to add $8 + 5$, you can break 5 into 2 and 3, add $8 + 2$ to make 10, then add the remaining 3 to get 13.

Is the 'make a ten' strategy useful for subtraction as well?

While it's primarily used for addition, it can sometimes aid subtraction by helping to understand complements to ten, but it is most effective in addition.

At what grade level is the 'make a ten' strategy typically taught?

It is usually introduced in early elementary grades, around first or second grade, as part of foundational addition skills.

How can teachers incorporate the 'make a ten' strategy into their lessons?

Teachers can use manipulatives like counters or number bonds, visual aids, and practice problems that encourage breaking numbers to form ten.

Does the 'make a ten' strategy work for larger numbers?

Yes, it can be extended to larger numbers by focusing on the digits in the ones place to simplify addition.

What are the benefits of learning the 'make a ten' strategy?

It enhances number sense, improves mental math skills, and builds a strong foundation for more complex arithmetic.

Are there digital tools or apps that teach the 'make a ten' strategy?

Yes, many educational math apps and games incorporate the 'make a ten' strategy through interactive activities and exercises.

How does 'make a ten' strategy relate to place value understanding?

It reinforces the concept of place value by showing how numbers can be decomposed and recombined based on tens and ones.

Additional Resources

1. *Making Ten: Mastering the Foundation of Addition*

This book introduces young learners to the concept of making ten as a fundamental addition strategy. Through engaging activities and colorful illustrations, children learn how breaking numbers apart can simplify addition problems. The step-by-step approach helps build a strong number sense and confidence in math.

2. *The Power of Ten: Strategies for Early Math Success*

Designed for educators and parents, this book explores various techniques centered around the make ten strategy. It offers practical tips and lesson plans to help children quickly add numbers by grouping them to ten. The book emphasizes understanding over memorization, fostering deeper mathematical thinking.

3. *Ten Frames and Beyond: Visual Tools for Addition*

This resource focuses on using ten frames and other visual aids to teach the make ten strategy. By visually representing numbers, students develop an intuitive grasp of how to combine parts to form ten. The book includes reproducible worksheets and games to reinforce learning in an interactive way.

4. Building Blocks of Math: The Make Ten Approach

A comprehensive guide for teachers, this book details how to integrate the make ten strategy into early math curricula. It covers theoretical foundations as well as practical classroom applications. Readers will find assessment tools and differentiated activities tailored to diverse learning styles.

5. Quick Addition Tricks: Using Make Ten for Speed and Accuracy

This book targets students looking to improve their mental math skills by mastering the make ten strategy. It presents fun exercises and challenges that encourage quick thinking and accuracy. The author also shares tips for overcoming common hurdles in learning addition.

6. From Counting to Calculating: The Make Ten Method Explained

Focused on transitioning students from counting fingers to mental calculation, this book highlights the make ten method as a key step. It explains why making ten simplifies addition and prepares learners for more complex math concepts. Engaging stories and examples make the content accessible and enjoyable.

7. Adding with Ease: Practical Applications of the Make Ten Strategy

This book offers real-world scenarios where the make ten strategy can be applied to solve addition problems efficiently. It encourages students to think critically about numbers and use the strategy in everyday contexts. Activities include puzzles, word problems, and collaborative group work.

8. Math Fluency through Make Ten: A Step-by-Step Guide

Aimed at improving math fluency, this guide breaks down the make ten strategy into manageable steps. It provides practice routines and progress tracking tools to help students monitor their growth. The book also addresses common misconceptions and offers solutions to build confidence.

9. Engaging Young Minds: Games and Activities for Make Ten Mastery

This interactive book is packed with games, songs, and hands-on activities designed to reinforce the make ten strategy. Suitable for classrooms and home learning, it promotes engagement and motivation through play. The variety of activities ensures that different learning preferences are accommodated.

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