

ADDITION AND SUBTRACTION

Addition takes two or more numbers and adds them together. The result you get is called the sum. Here's a simple example: $3+4=7$.

When adding more than two numbers, the order in which the numbers are added does not matter. For instance, the example above could also be written as $4+3=7$. Likewise, the equation $1+7+3=11$ could also be written as $3+1+7=11$. The sum will remain the same either way.

Addends Sum

$$3 + 4 = 7$$

When adding many numbers together, it's often easier to group some of the numbers together into smaller "equations," determine the sums of each group, and then add all the sums together.

$$\begin{aligned} &1+6+2+7+5+4+8+1 \\ &(1+6) + (2+7) + (5+4) + (8+1) \\ &(7+9) + (9+9) \\ &16+18 \\ &34 \end{aligned}$$

Subtraction takes one quantity away from another. For instance, the expression $4-3$ means that 3 must be taken away from 4, which results in 1. The result of subtracting numbers is called the difference.

Minuend Difference

$$4 - 3 = 1$$

Subtrahend

Unlike addition, the order of the numbers does matter; the difference will be different depending on which number is the minuend and which is the subtrahend.

To help you remember the order of a subtraction problem, try memorizing the phrase "Me first. Subtract me. Done with the problem."

$$\begin{array}{ll} 37-17-7 & 93-10-12 \\ 20-7 & 83-12 \\ 13 & 71 \end{array}$$

To subtract a series of numbers, it is best to subtract them in order. This will ensure that the minuends and subtrahends do not accidentally switch places as you solve the problem.

