

Maths and Statistics Help Centre



Numbers: Addition and Subtraction

Adding 2 or more numbers together gives you the total of the individual numbers. For example 5 + 3 = 8 and 9 - 4 = 5.

Try the following for yourself:

Exercise 1			
a) 2 + 3 =	b) 6 + 3 =	c) 5 − 3 =	d) 8 − 4 =
e) 1 + 8 =	f) 4 – 1 =	g) 9 − 6 =	h) 3 + 2 =

When adding numbers with more than one digit (e.g. 14, 2394 or 630) then it's important to remember the value of the digit depends on its position in the number.

The number 2 in 2394 is 2 thousands, 3 is 3 hundreds, 9 tens and 4 units:

2000	2 thousands
300	3 hundreds
90	9 tens
4	4 units
2394	

Therefore when adding these numbers make sure to line them up correctly, for example to add 2394 to 630 should be:

First add 4 to 0 giving 4 in the units column, then add the tens 9 and 3 giving 12, 2 get written in the tens columns and the 1 is carried over to the hundreds so in the hundreds column you add 3 to 6 and to the 1 carried over giving 10. The 0 in written in the hundreds column and the 1 is carried over to the thousands column and similarly the digits in the thousands are added 2 and the 1 carried over giving 3

Try this yourself.

Exercise 2

a)	78	b)	125	c)		419	d)		9435
+	121		+ 34		+	673		+	98
					-			-	
					-				
e)	345293	f)	1546	g)		375	h)		1098
+	825		+ 84		+	25391		+	7354
	9541		798		-	43245			754
					-			-	
e) +	825	f)	+ 84	g)	+	25391	h)	+	73



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When subtracting numbers with more than one digit instead of carrying over we carry forward, see example below.

Subtract 34 from 250:



First we have to take 4 away from 0 but because 0 is less than 4 we bring a ten over from the tens column turning the 0 into 10 units and making the 5 tens 4 tens now. 4 away from 10 gives 6, 3 tens away from 4 tens leaves 1 and 0 from 2 gives 2.

Now try thi yourself.

Exercise 3

a)	785 <u>314</u>	b)	459 - <u>308</u>	c)	719 - <u>673</u>	d)	9345 <u>28</u>
e)	45293	f)	1546	g)	3375	h)	10298
	825		<u> </u>		_ 391		7354_

Note: Addition is commutative in other words the order in which the numbers are added doesn't change the result. For example Mrs Jones has 2 dogs, her neighbour Mr and Mrs Davis have only 1 dog and Mr Brown next door has no dogs, all together they have 3 dogs. The order you count the dogs doesn't matter that is 2+1+0=3 as does 0+1+2.



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Answers to Exercise 1

a) $2 + 3 = 5$	b) $6 + 3 = 9$	c) $5 - 3 = 2$	d) $8 - 4 = 4$
e) 1 + 8 = 9	f) $4 - 1 = 3$	g) $9 - 6 = 3$	h) 3 + 2 = 5

Answers to Exercise 2

a)		78	b)		125	c)		419	d)	9435
	+	121		+	34		+	673		+	98
		199			159			1092			9533
e)		345293	f)		1546	g)		375	h)	1098
	+	825		+	84		+	25391		+	7354
		9541			798			43245			754
		355659		-	2428			69011			9206
Ansv	vers	to Exercise 3									
a)		785	b)		459	c)		719	d)		9345
		314	-		308			673			28
	=	471			151		=	46		=	9317
e)		45293	f)		1546	g)		3375	h)		10298
		825	-		584			391			7354
	=	44468			962		=	2984		=	2944