

Methods of adding and subtracting

There are lots of different ways that you can solve maths problems or do calculations.

It is worth trying out different ways to see if you can find a way you like, or feel comfortable with.

In this activity you will think about different ways to approach adding and taking away (subtracting).

Task 1:

Look through the cards with sums written in figures. Match each of these with the card which describes (in words) a way to work out the answer. Use a number line to help you.

Task 2:

Now look through the cards which name some different methods of adding and taking away. Match your pairs of cards to these.

Task 3:

For each sum, can you work out why that method was used?

Task 4:

Take the number 137. Can you use each of these methods to write out a sum that has 137 as the answer?

Questions...

- 1) Which method do you like best?
- 2) Which method do you not like?
- 3) Have you used any of these methods before?
- 4) Can you think of any other methods that you use?

$$5 + 3$$

Keep the larger number in your head
and count on by three

$$21 - 18$$

Count on from 18 until you get to 21

$$9 - 7$$

Count back from 9 until you get to 7

$$5 + 6$$

Double 5 is 10, and add 1 more

$$22 + 9$$

Add ten, then take away the extra one

$$35 - 9$$

Take away ten, then add back the extra one

$$43 + 19$$

Add 20 then subtract the extra one

$$86 + 57$$

Add the tens: $80 + 50 = 130$
And now add the units: $6 + 7 = 13$
Then put the tens and units together: $130 + 13$

$$25 + 27$$

Double 25 is 50, and add 2 more

$$18 + 7$$

Add 2 to get to 20, then add 5 more

Method 1: Counting on or back

Start with one number of the sum and count forwards or backwards

Method 2: Near doubles

Use known 'doubles facts' to help you add numbers which are nearly the same and then adjust the answer

Method 3: Compensating

Use this method to add or subtract numbers that are close to easier numbers, like multiples of ten. Then adjust by adding or subtracting the difference

Method 4: Partitioning

Break or split numbers into their 'parts' or 'bits' of hundreds, tens and units (according to what suits the sum)

Method 5: Bridging

Add on part of the number to get to the nearest ten or hundred, then add on the rest