

Adding Numbers Parents' Guide

Teaching Mathematics That Makes Sense

Addition

Students often learn how to add numbers one way – by “carrying.” Yet, there are many ways to think about how to add numbers.

Think about how you learned to add:

$$\begin{array}{r} 47 \\ + 35 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

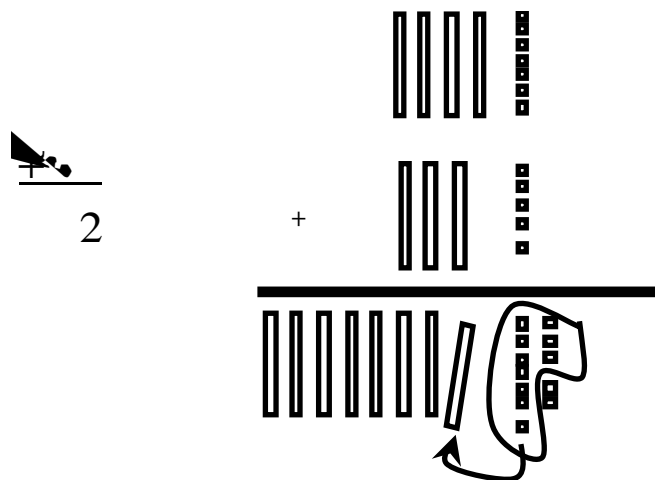
You probably were taught that $7 + 5 = 12$ so put down the two and “carry” the one.

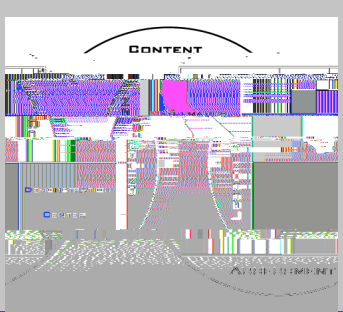
$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 47 \\ + 35 \\ \hline 2 \end{array}$$

Although this works it is not the only way to add numbers. In fact, often students forget to “carry” the one. We can use what are called base-10 blocks to show why we have to “carry” the one (which really stands for ten).

Modeling With Base – 10 Blocks

With base-10 blocks the \blacksquare represents 1 and the ||| represents 10.





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Decomposition
and Using a
Number Line

Another
Example – Three
Different Ways