Bridges in Mathematics, Grade 2

# Unit 3: Addition & Subtraction Within One Hundred

In this unit your child will:

- Make graphs and answer questions about the graphs
- Solve addition and subtraction story problems
- Add and subtract 2-digit numbers using efficient strategies
- Represent addition and subtraction on a number line

Your child will learn and practice these skills by solving problems like those shown below. Keep this sheet for reference when you're helping with homework.







There were 32 presents in the closet and 15 on the table. How many presents were there in all?

"I added the tens (30 + 10 = 40) and then the ones (2 + 5 = 7). "Then I added them together to find the total sum (40 + 7 = 47). 47 presents!"



Dad ordered 51 presents for the party. There are 27 of these presents already on the table. The rest of the presents are still in the delivery truck. How many presents are in the truck?

"I drew 51 by making lines for the strips of 10 and dots for the pieces to show 1s. I crossed out the 2 tens from 27, but I needed to trade one of the tens pieces for 10 ones so I could subtract 7. I subtracted 7 by crossing out 7 dots. Then I counted the tens and ones that were left. 51 - 27 = 24. There are 24 left in the truck."



COMMENTS

#### Adding using the base ten model: Splitting

Base ten models like those shown encourage students to split numbers by place value and then add tens to tens, and ones to ones. In the example at left, the student used the tens and individual ones to represent each number. Next, the tens and ones in each number were added separately, resulting in two partial totals that were combined to get the total. This strategy demonstrates a strong grasp of place value concepts and lends itself well to mental calculations and estimation.

#### Subtracting using the base ten model: Splitting

The strategy at the left is similar to the splitting strategy for addition because the student works first with the tens and then with the ones. In this example, the student made a sketch of the tens and ones of the larger number (51). By thinking about taking the smaller number away from the larger number, the student subtracted the 2 tens from 51 and then traded another ten for 10 ones to subtract the 7 ones.

Here is the same problem solved with the jumping strategy on the number line:



Some students prefer using the number line because addition is easier for them and there is no need to trade tens for ones.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT UNIT 3

## **Q:** Why are students solving addition and subtraction problems in so many ways? Why don't they learn to do it the way I learned to do it in grade school?

**A:** The way many of us learned to add and subtract in grade school is referred to as the **standard algorithm**. An *algorithm* is simply a series of steps that you can follow to solve a particular kind of problem. The advantage of learning algorithms is that they work every time, always producing a correct answer if followed correctly.

Standard Algorithm for Addition	Standard Algorithm for Subtraction
$^{1}13$	456
+ 18	<u>- 37</u>
31	19

The disadvantage of learning algorithms too soon is that students often don't understand what they are doing, and the value of the digits is ignored. As a result, they often make mistakes or forget how to carry out the steps correctly. The lessons in this unit draw students' attention to using the strategies discussed above while allowing students to solve problems in ways that make sense to them. Research suggests that students who choose their own strategies before learning an algorithm show better understanding of place value concepts and transfer their knowledge and skills more effectively to work with larger numbers.