

Using Mental Math to Add



Quick Review

When you add in your head, you do **mental math**.

Jake bought 28 guppies and 24 goldfish.
How many fish did Jake buy altogether?

Here are some ways to use mental math to add $28 + 24$.

➤ Add the tens, then the ones.
Then add sums.

➤ Use a "friendly" number.

Think:

$$28 = 20 + 8$$

$$24 = 20 + 4$$

$$20 + 20 = 40$$

$$8 + 4 = 12$$

$$40 + 12 = 52$$

$$\text{So, } 28 + 24 = 52.$$

Think:

28 is close to 30.

$$30 + 24 = 54$$

28 + 24 is 2 less.

$$\text{So, } 28 + 24 = 52.$$

Jake bought 52 fish.

Try These

Use mental math.

1. Add.

a) $46 + 28 =$ _____ b) $18 + 24 =$ _____ c) $55 + 38 =$ _____

d) $39 + 52 =$ _____ e) $36 + 19 =$ _____ f) $47 + 29 =$ _____

2. Add. What patterns do you see?

a) $36 + 10 =$ _____, $36 + 20 =$ _____, $36 + 30 =$ _____, $36 + 40 =$ _____

b) $30 + 16 =$ _____, $30 + 26 =$ _____, $30 + 36 =$ _____, $30 + 46 =$ _____

Practice

1. Use mental math to add.

a) $49 + 23 =$ _____ b) $51 + 37 =$ _____ c) $64 + 19 =$ _____

d) $31 + 49 =$ _____ e) $17 + 39 =$ _____ f) $54 + 23 =$ _____

2. Use mental math. Find out how many seashells you would have if you bought one tub each of:

a) sand dollars and cowries _____

b) oysters and pukas _____

c) pukas and sand dollars _____

d) pukas and cowries _____

e) oysters and cowries _____

f) sand dollars and oysters _____



3. Sanjay has 27 seahorses and 26 sea urchins in his salt-water tank.

How many sea creatures is that? _____

4. Marta had 41 red buttons and 57 silver buttons.

How many buttons is that? _____

Stretch Your Thinking

Use mental math to add: $24 + 37 + 26 =$ _____

Describe the strategy you used.
