Name _____ Date _____

Adding big numbers

Column addition works the same for 5- and 6-digit numbers.

1 Learn



Big numbers just have more columns. Line up the digits by place value, start with the **ones**, and exchange ten for one whenever a column makes 10 or more.

HTh	TTh	Th	H	T	O
3	4	6	7	5	8

300,000 + 40,000 + 6,000 + 700 + 50 + 8 = **346,758**

TTh	Th	H	T	O
4	6	3	7	5
+ 2	8	5	4	9
1		1	1	
7	4	9	2	4

Worked example: 46,375 + 28,549

Ones: 5 + 9 = 14. Write 4, exchange **1 ten**.

Tens: 7 + 4 + 1 = 12. Write 2, exchange **1 hundred**.

Hundreds: 3 + 5 + 1 = **9**. No exchange.

Thousands: 6 + 8 = 14. Write 4, exchange **1 ten thousand**.

Ten thousands: 4 + 2 + 1 = **7**. Answer: **74,924**.

Flip's tip: say each exchange out loud: "14 tens: write 4, exchange 1 hundred." Saying it helps you remember to add the exchanged digit in the next column.

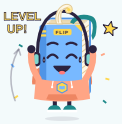
Warm up: what is the 7 worth in each number?

274,105 → ____ 357,912 → ____ 712,486 → ____

Grown-ups: the method is the same one your child used with 3- and 4-digit numbers. Check they name the columns (ten thousands, hundred thousands) and say each exchange aloud.

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Digit card sums

You need: a sheet of paper torn into 10 pieces, numbered 0 to 9, and a pencil.

1. Mix the cards face down. The grown-up turns over 5 cards to make a 5-digit number, then puts them back.
2. The child does the same to make their own 5-digit number. (If a 0 comes first, move it to the end.)
3. The child adds the two numbers in columns, saying each exchange out loud.
4. Count the exchanges. Then try to arrange the cards to make a sum with **no** exchanges, or with as many as you can.

Grown-up's number	Child's number	Total	Exchanges

Grown-ups: check the total with a quick estimate: round both numbers to the nearest 10,000 and add. Is the answer close?

3 Practise

A. Add in columns.

1

TTh	Th	H	T	O
2	3	4	1	5
+ 4	1	3	6	2
	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

2

TTh	Th	H	T	O
3	5	2	6	8
+ 1	2	5	1	9
	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

3

TTh	Th	H	T	O
4	8	7	3	6
+ 2	7	1	8	5
	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Adding big numbers

Name _____ Date _____

B. Add these 6-digit numbers.

1

HTh	TTh	Th	H	T	O
	2	3	4	5	6	7
+	1	5	2	3	8	4

2

HTh	TTh	Th	H	T	O
	4	0	6	7	1	8
+	2	8	5	5	9	4

3

HTh	TTh	Th	H	T	O
	1	5	7	8	4	6
+	2	6	8	3	7	9

C. Mia added 52,436 + 21,349. What went wrong?

TTh	Th	H	T	O
5	2	4	3	6
+ 2	1	3	4	9
7	3	7	7	15

The right answer: _____

_____

D. A science museum had 48,375 visitors in July and 39,846 in August. How many visitors is that altogether?

Answer: _____

Challenge

Leo worked out **65,847 + 23,965** and got **88,702**. Use an estimate to show he can't be right. What did he forget to do?

_____

_____

_____

I can… Tick when you can.

- [ ] line up 5- and 6-digit numbers by place value
- [ ] exchange ten for one into the next column
- [ ] add numbers with more than 4 digits in columns