

Math Moments that Matter

SECOND GRADE

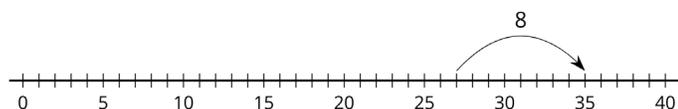


Addition and Subtraction within 100

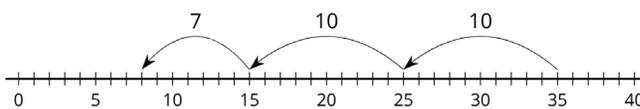
In 2nd grade, students build on what they learned in first grade as they explore different ways to add and subtract within 100. Using tools like base-ten blocks, number lines, and simple drawings, they model their thinking and begin to see how tens and ones work together. As they choose strategies that make sense and explain why they know their answers are reasonable, students learn that numbers can be broken apart and put back together in many ways—and that math is really about thinking and making sense of situations.

Students use hands-on tools like number lines to show how they solve addition and subtraction problems. In the first image, a number line shows a student jumping forward 8 from 27 to reach 35 when adding. In the second image, a number line shows a student jumping backward from 35 in steps of 10 and 7 when subtracting. These visuals help students understand what the numbers mean and how the answer is found.

EXAMPLE: Number line showing addition



EXAMPLE: Number line showing subtraction



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Problem Solving in Math

When students work on addition and subtraction problems, they're learning how numbers connect and how to choose strategies that make sense. Real-world examples—like sharing snacks or figuring out how many more they need—help students understand what a problem is asking and plan a way to solve it. They learn to:

- Make sense of a story problem and think about how to model it
- Choose strategies that work, like breaking apart numbers or using place value
- Check their work by estimating or explaining their thinking
- Use math language to describe their steps: “I added the tens first, then the ones.”
- Explain their reasoning: “I know $63 - 27 = 36$ because I took away 20, then 7.”

These habits help students become confident problem solvers who know there's more than one way to understand and solve a problem.

What You Might See in the Classroom

Students using base-ten blocks, number lines, or drawings to show different ways to add and subtract.

Teachers asking:

- “How do you know your answer makes sense?”
- “Can you show it another way?”
- “What strategy did you use?”

Students adding tens to tens and ones to ones using place-value strategies.

Students showing connections between addition and subtraction through equations and models.

Students sharing strategies with partners and discussing why their method makes sense.

What You Can Do at Home

Use everyday items: “You have 46 grapes, and I gave you 12 more. How could you figure out the total?”

Ask: “How did you know that?” or “Can you show it another way?”

Play a quick game: “Let’s add 23 and 41 in our heads. What happens if we add tens first?”

Connect ideas: “If $56 + 7 = 63$, what subtraction equation matches it?”

Talk it out: “Which strategy felt easiest? Why?”

Make it a Math Moment!

Every problem tells a story. When students explain how they add or subtract, they’re showing the story behind the numbers—what changed, what stayed the same, and why their strategy works.

