HOW WE TEACH MATHS
Column Addition

St Michael's V.A. Junior School • All Angels' Primary Federation

We teach children to choose the most efficient method for each calculation. They might work it out mentally, make quick jottings or use a written method.

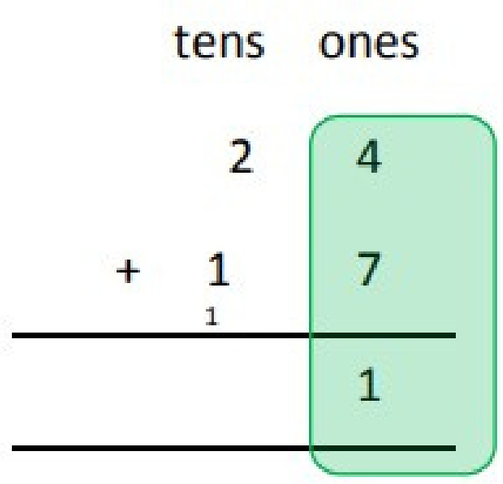
The column method

1. Line up the digits in their place value columns.
2. Start with the smallest place value, usually the ones.
3. Write the answer below the line, then work through the remaining columns from right to left.

Sometimes you need to regroup. This means exchanging 10 of one place value for 1 of the next. For example, 10 ones can be exchanged for 1 ten.

Worked example • 24 + 17

1. First add the ones

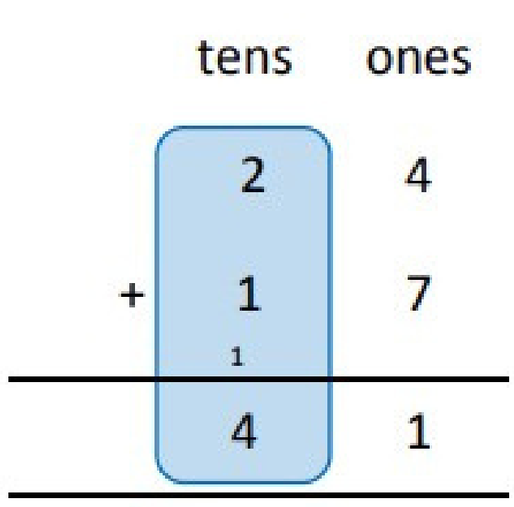


4 ones + 7 ones = 11 ones

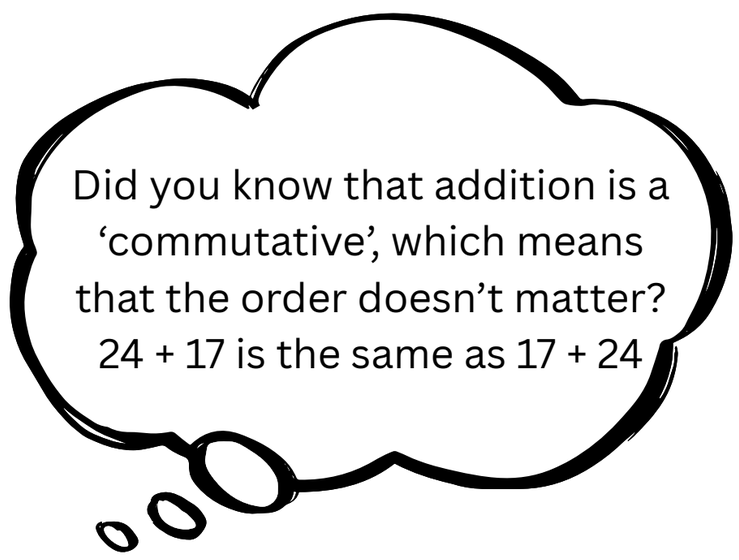
REGROUP THE ONES

11 ones = 1 ten and 1 one

2. Then add the tens.



2 tens + 1 ten + 1 ten = 4 tens



So 24 + 17 = 41

How can you help at home?

TRY THIS TOGETHER

- Ask your child to explain each step.
- Encourage them to line up the digits carefully.
- Ask whether the answer makes sense. For example, 24 + 17 should be greater than 24 + 10.
- Talk about when mental maths or a quick jotting might be more efficient.

MORE HELP ONLINE

BBC Bitesize – Addition

Third Space Learning – Column addition