

Mental Math Strategies

The mental math strategies we practice in class to build number sense — with practice problems.

Name

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Date

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These are the mental math strategies we practice regularly to build number sense and speed without relying only on paper-and-pencil methods.

1. Friendly Numbers

Round one number to a friendly number, then adjust the answer.

$$38 + 47 \rightarrow 40 + 47 = 87, \text{ minus } 2 = 85$$

2. Doubling & Halving

Double one factor and halve the other — product stays the same.

$$16 \times 5 \rightarrow 8 \times 10 = 80$$

3. Breaking Apart

Split a number into tens and ones, solve each part, add back together.

$$7 \times 23 \rightarrow (7 \times 20) + (7 \times 3) = 161$$

4. Using Known Facts

Use a fact you already know to figure out a related one.

$$5 \times 6 = 30, \text{ so } 6 \times 6 = 30 + 6 = 36$$

Practice — Use the Matching Strategy

Friendly numbers: $29 + 56 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

Doubling & halving: $14 \times 5 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

Breaking apart: $6 \times 34 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

Known facts: If $4 \times 8 = 32$, then $5 \times 8 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$