



MATHS · YEAR 1 · KS1 · 15-20 MIN

Swap the Addends!

The idea in 3 sentences. Addends are the parts that we put together. In addition, we can change the order of the addends. The sum, or whole, remains the same.

0-3

Show 3 counters and 5 counters. Count them altogether and write $3 + 5 = 8$.

3-7

Swap the two counter groups. Write $5 + 3 = 8$ and ask what changed and what stayed the same.

7-12

Model a second example with the whole on the left: $9 = 4 + 5$, then $9 = 5 + 4$.

12-17

Pupils complete the mini-activity, using counters or drawings if needed.

- Count 3 red counters and 5 blue counters: $3 + 5 = 8$. Swap the groups: $5 + 3 = 8$. The addends change places, but the sum is still 8.
- There are 9 biscuits altogether. They can be split into 4 and 5, so $9 = 4 + 5$. Swapping the parts gives $9 = 5 + 4$.

COMMON MISTAKES

Thinking the equal sign means “the answer comes next”.

Read it as “has the same value as”. Show that both sides name the same whole.

Thinking that swapping addends makes a different sum.

Build both additions with the same counters and count the whole each time.

QUICK CHECK

1. What is the sum of $2 + 6$ and of $6 + 2$? — *Both sums are 8.*
2. What changes when $4 + 3$ becomes $3 + 4$? — *Only the order of the addends changes.*
3. What does $7 = 5 + 2$ tell us? — *Both sides have the same value: 7.*

SUPPORT

Use two groups of counters. Ask, “Did we change how many counters there are...”

EXTENSION

Give 4 cm and 7 cm as two ribbon lengths. Ask pupils to write both addition orders and explain why the total length matches.





MATHS · YEAR 1 · KS1

Swap the Addends!

Name _____

Date _____

1 LOOK 2 COVER 3 WRITE 4 CHECK

review it tomorrow and in 3 days

THE IDEA

You can swap the two numbers you add. The whole stays the same.

What is it for? It helps you spot matching addition facts and check your answers.

My activity

- 1** Draw a group of 2 counters and a group of 5 counters. Write an addition equation, then swap the groups and write a new equation.

- 2** Choose two numbers from 1 to 9. Make two addition equations by swapping the addends. Explain what stays the same.

- 3** Decide which pairs show the same whole: $3 + 4$ and $4 + 3$; $2 + 6$ and $2 + 5$. Tell a partner why.

WORD	COVER AND SAY IT
Addend	A number being added; it is a part of the whole.
Sum	The result of adding numbers; it is the whole.
Commutative	Addition can swap addends and keep the same sum.
Altogether	All the groups brought together to find the whole.

Self-quiz (cover the answers)

1. What happens when you swap the addends in an addition?
2. In $4 + 3 = 7$, what are the addends?
3. What does the equal sign show?
4. Is $6 + 2$ the same as $2 + 6$?

1: The sum stays the same. · 2: 4 and 3 are the addends. · 3: Both sides have the same value. · 4: Yes. Both sums are 8.

