

Addition and subtraction using place values activities

1 Add tens to tens

Children lay out ten cards to solve pure tens addition, such as $50 + 40$, by counting the cards rather than counting by ones.

"Count the ten cards. How many are there in total?"

"What is 50 plus 40?"

2 Add tens to a two-digit number

Children use ten cards to solve problems like $40 + 27$, noticing that only the tens digit changes and the ones digit stays the same.

"What happens to the ones digit when you add tens? Does it change?"

"What is 40 plus 27?"

3 Subtract tens the same way

Children remove ten cards to solve subtraction problems like $82 - 50$, checking that only the tens digit changes.

"What happens to the ones digit when you subtract tens? Does it change?"

"What is 82 minus 50?"

4 Non-example: the ones digit changed by mistake

Someone worked out $63 - 20$ and wrote 41, changing the ones digit from three to one.

"Taking away tens — should the ones digit change?"

"What should the answer actually be?"

Ten cards

10	10	10	10	10	10
10	10	10	10	10	10
10	10	10	10	10	10
10	10				

Number cards — tens and ones



