

Addition notation using bar models activities



1 Build the number sentence

Students put two parts in the bar and join them, then lay the number cards with the + and = signs to build “__ + __ = __.”

“Put the two parts in. Now write it — what goes before the plus? After it? After the equals?”

“Read your sentence out loud — does it match your counters?”

2 Read the bar, write the whole

Set out a bar with two parts and the + and = frame already there. Students read the two parts, join to find the whole, and complete the sentence. Use wholes to ten.

“The parts are here — what is the whole? Fill in after the equals sign.”

“What does the plus tell you to do? What does the equals sign mean?”

3 Swap the parts

Students write $3 + 2 = 5$, then swap the parts to write $2 + 3 = 5$. The order of the parts changes, but the whole stays the same.

“Now swap the parts — write it the other way. Is the whole still five?”

“Why does the whole stay the same when we swap the parts?”

4 Non-example: the two sides are not equal

Write $3 + 2 = 6$ and say it is correct. Ask students to check — the equals sign says both sides are the same amount.

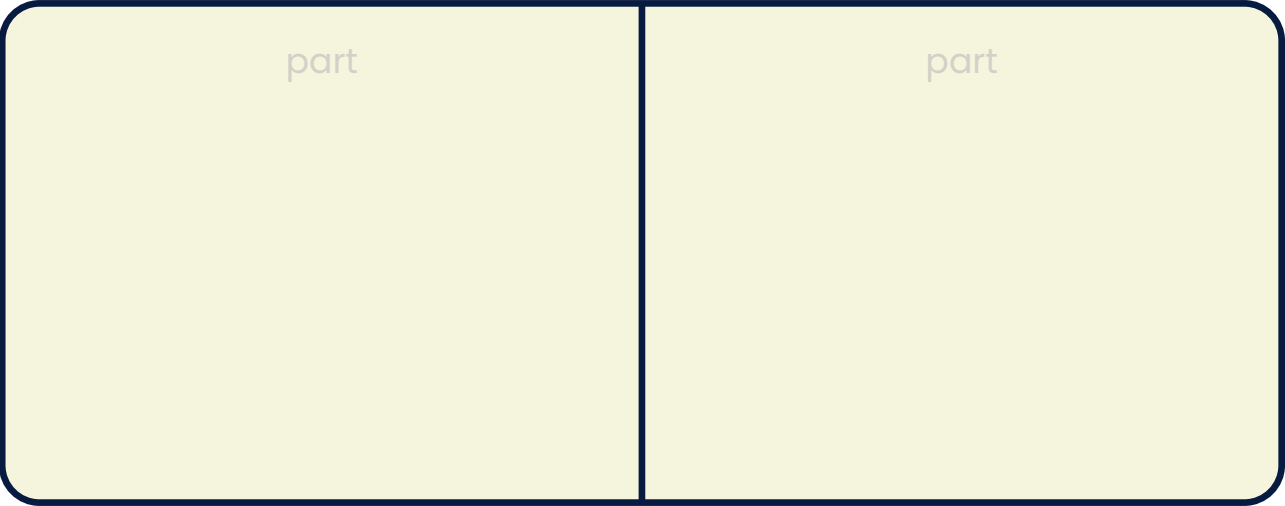
“I wrote three plus two equals six. Are both sides the same? Join the parts and count.”

“What should the whole be? The equals sign means the sides are equal.”

Addition notation mat



the whole



part

part

Number cards 0–10



0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	0	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10		

Addition and equals cards

