

FAMILY MATH

Reason About Ten as a Unit to Add or Subtract

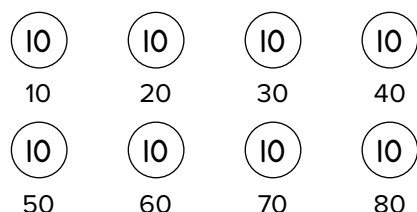
Dear Family,

Your student is learning to unitize 10 individual objects as a group or unit of 1 ten. A unit is a label that describes what is being counted or measured. When 10 ones are grouped together, they make a unit of ten, or a *ten*. Your student organizes and counts a collection of objects, then shows how they counted. Their drawings show the meaning of the digits and encourage flexible thinking. They see two-digit numbers as being made up of tens and ones and use this idea to add and subtract teen numbers.

Key Terms

ten

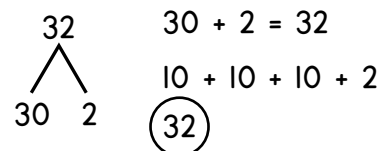
unit



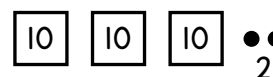
81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87

This drawing shows how students organized and counted some popsicle sticks. They put 10 sticks in each cup. They made 8 cups of 10. They had one cup with 7 sticks.

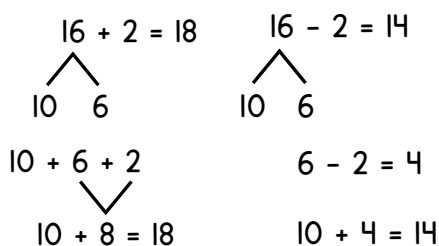
Organizing objects into groups of 10 makes it easier to find the total.



3 tens 2 ones



Students recognize that the digit 3 in the tens place represents both 30 ones and 3 units of ten.



Breaking apart a two-digit number into tens and ones allows students to add or subtract the ones first and then add back the ten.

At-Home Activities

Make Tens

Help your student create and count groups of 10 objects as a unit of ten. Provide them with a large group of objects such as straws, buttons, blocks, or crayons. Have your student group and count the objects by tens as described. Then, have your student add on the ones.

- Provide a bag of 53 buttons. Ask your student to put the buttons in groups of 10. They may place the buttons in cups, on plates, or in piles.
- Have them count by tens and then by ones to find the total. (10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 51, 52, 53)

Teen Numbers

Help your student practice addition and subtraction problems with teen numbers. Start with a problem using ones, such as “What is 7 minus 4?” or “What is 5 plus 3?” Ask them to use their answer to solve a related problem with teen numbers, such as “If 7 minus 4 is 3, what is 17 minus 4?” “If 5 plus 3 is 8, what is 15 plus 3?” If your student needs more support, consider writing each problem and using drawings or number bonds to solve them.