Different Approaches

ACTIVITY

You need: a classmate, a calculator

In Room 6, Ms Matrix was talking to some of her students about solving number problems. "Sometimes using your brain is faster than using a calculator," she said.

Ms Matrix divided the children into two equal groups.

The people in this group can use a calculator. The other group will use their brains.

1. Ms Matrix gave these problems to each group:

   i. 49 + 49

   ii. 900 + 30 + 4

   iii. 63 − 37

   iv. 704 − 299

   v. 9 + 9 + 9 + 9 + 9

   vi. 26 + 26 + 24 + 24

   vii. 98 − 43

   viii. 423 − 286

   ix. 68 + 32

   x. 498 + 302

   a. For each problem, discuss with a classmate which students you think will solve each problem first: the brain people or the calculator people.

   b. Could you work out each of the problems in your head?
   Say how you would do each one.

2. Write 10 addition and 10 subtraction problems.
   For each set, make five of the problems easier to do in your head and the other five easier to do on a calculator.
   Try them out on a classmate.

Choosing appropriate methods of calculation

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