Finding the Missing Addend

Missing Addend

In an addition sentence, if one of the numbers (addends) is not known, we call it the missing addend. We use subtraction to find the missing number.

Example: If 45 + ____ = 78, then the missing addend = 78 - 45 = 33

Rule to Find the Missing Addend

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Missing Addend = Sum – Known Addend
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This means if we know the total and one number, we subtract to find the missing number.

Properties Used

Addition is related to subtraction. If a + b = c, then c - a = b and c - b = a

Order of addends does not change the sum: a + b = b + a

Adding 0 does not change the number: a + 0 = a

Example 1:

Question: Find the missing number: 368 + ____ = 725

Solution:

Missing Addend = 725 - 368 = 357

Answer: The missing number is 357

Example 2:

Question: Find the missing addend in $\frac{2}{5}$ + ____ = $\frac{5}{5}$

Solution:

Subtract the known addend from the sum

 $\frac{5}{5} - \frac{2}{5} = \frac{3}{5}$

Answer: The missing addend is $\frac{3}{5}$

Summary Points

• A missing addend is a number we need to find to complete an addition sentence

- We subtract the known number from the sum to find it
- Always remember: Missing Addend = Sum Known Addend
- It helps us solve problems when one number is unknown
- This strategy works for whole numbers and fractions with the same denominator