

# Math from Left to Right

**Overview:** In school, you are trained to solve math problems on paper, at a desk. The problem with that is, for most people, math problems don't usually come with a desk or a pencil. They pop up in the checkout line when paying for groceries, figuring out your gas mileage at the pump, or when counting calories at a restaurant. Learning how to solve math problems in your head is an essential everyday life skill, especially if you don't want to be ripped off in money transactions.



**What to Learn:** Learning how to calculate in your head doesn't have to be hard or scary, but it does require a little rewiring of the current math solving conditioning that you've already got in your brain. Specifically, we're going to train your mind that when you solve math problems without paper, you must do it from *left to right*. It's so much easier to think about math problems from left to right, so that's how we're going to do them.

**Exercises:** Write down your answers, and then check yourself with a calculator. Use easy addition to solve the hard subtraction problems, and easy subtraction to solve hard addition problems.

- |           |             |              |              |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. $50+7$ | 6. $97+4$   | 11. $101+21$ | 16. $123-52$ |
| 2. $60+5$ | 7. $54+10$  | 12. $766+89$ | 17. $116-88$ |
| 3. $30+4$ | 8. $32+20$  | 13. $873+96$ | 18. $256-49$ |
| 4. $46+2$ | 9. $65+80$  | 14. $152+14$ | 19. $318-52$ |
| 5. $33+5$ | 10. $58+21$ | 15. $466+59$ | 20. $697-26$ |

How far are these numbers from 100 or 1000?

- |       |         |         |
|-------|---------|---------|
| 1. 33 | 8. 22   | 15. 468 |
| 2. 48 | 9. 39   | 16. 216 |
| 3. 67 | 10. 79  | 17. 549 |
| 4. 97 | 11. 216 | 18. 867 |
| 5. 52 | 12. 549 | 19. 216 |
| 6. 76 | 13. 687 | 20. 531 |
| 7. 19 | 14. 359 | 21. 999 |

What is your change from \$10.00?

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| 1. \$3.26 | 8. \$7.46  |
| 2. \$2.41 | 9. \$6.54  |
| 3. \$9.54 | 10. \$8.88 |
| 4. \$8.54 | 11. \$9.90 |
| 5. \$5.55 | 12. \$6.79 |
| 6. \$6.42 | 13. \$2.41 |
| 7. \$1.81 | 14. \$9.64 |