

THINKING WITH NUMBERS

Lesson Descriptions

Change The Problem

For some problems, changing to a problem with the same answer often makes it easier. For example, to solve $43 + 29$, you can change the problem by taking 1 from 43 and giving it to 29 to get $42 + 30$. The answer is the same, but it is easier to add $42 + 30$. Similarly, to solve $62 - 28$, you can change the problem by adding two to each number and keeping the difference the same to get $64 - 30$. This strategy enables children to solve problems with larger numbers mentally.

Expected content outcomes include helping children learn:

- to make sense of using change the problem to add and subtract mentally,
- to recognize that using change the problem is strategically efficient when the change makes the problem easier, and
- to become proficient in using change the problem to add and subtract mentally.

