Explore together

Make Tens with Number Pairs

Pair numbers to make a round total, then use the pair to add.

Get ready: Scrap paper and a pencil. Write one number on each paper card.

01 Find a partner for 20

Start at 7 and count on to 20. You count 13 more.
7 and 13 make 20. Find another pair: 8 and 12 make 20.

02 Add the easy pair first

To add 19 + 6 + 1, pair 19 and 1 to make 20.
Then add 6 to get 26. Changing the order keeps the same sum.

Ask as you play

“Can you show me how you know?” Let your child point, build, draw or tell.

Try it yourself

Make Tens with Number Pairs

Point, build, draw or tell. A grown-up can read each question.

1

Find a partner for each number to make 20. Start with 9, then try 5.

2

Add 17 + 8 + 3. Circle or name the two numbers you added first.

3

Use cards 4, 6, 14, and 16 once each. Make two pairs that each add to 20.

4

What is 48 + 7 + 2? Show or tell how you worked it out.

5 • Try it if you want

Find all pairs of whole numbers from 0 to 10 that add to 10. Repeats are allowed, and reversing a pair does not make a new one.

Parent answer key

Make Tens with Number Pairs

Keep this page with the grown-up.

1 11 goes with 9. 15 goes with 5.

2 28. One way is 17 + 3 = 20, then 20 + 8 = 28. Accept other correct groupings.

3 4 with 16, and 6 with 14. Each card is used once.

4 57. One way is to make 50 from 48 and 2, then add 7. Accept any correct strategy.

5 Six pairs: 0 + 10, 1 + 9, 2 + 8, 3 + 7, 4 + 6, and 5 + 5. Accept pairs in any order.

What did you notice?

Tried alone, tried with help, or skipped? Pointing, building and explaining all count.

Next time

Try number cards that make 10 if 20 feels hard. If pairing is easy, ask how they know they found every pair.