

## How to add three 2-digit numbers in your head

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Here are some hints and tips to help with adding three 2-digit numbers in your head. These can be really tricky, so here we go.

There is no one correct method for adding 3 numbers, much depends on the patterns you can find before starting. Here are some tips:

1. Most people find it easier to add the tens before the units. This is the opposite of doing it with pencil and paper methods!
2. When adding the tens look to start with the largest number, then add on the two smaller numbers.  
e.g.  $34 + 56 + 85$ : I would add 8 tens to 3 tens, making 11 tens, then 5 tens, making 16 tens, or 160.
3. I find counting on is a good way to do this part. I might even use my fingers to count on  
e.g. count on 3 from 8 by going from 8 to '9', '10', '11'.
4. You need to be able to hold this number (160) in your head whilst working out the rest of the sum. If you find this hard, jot it down on a piece of paper.
5. Look for pairs of numbers that make 10.  
e.g.  $34 + 56 + 85$ : keeping 160 in my head, I start to add the units, I would add 6 and 4, making 10, and 170 in total. Then all I need to do is add the 5 to 170 to make 175. All correct!

Or:

6. Look for easy 2-digit addition.  
e.g. with  $34 + 56 + 85$  it is easy to add 34 and 56 to make 90. Then just add the 85 to make 175.



Try these and see how you get on.

1.  $45 + 37 + 55 =$

2.  $37 + 44 + 23 =$

3.  $29 + 51 + 76 =$

4.  $52 + 54 + 19 =$

5.  $75 + 25 + 93 =$

6.  $64 + 48 + 26 =$

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Try adding these 'in your head'.

1.  $54 + 62 + 16 =$

2.  $85 + 26 + 35 =$

3.  $27 + 45 + 73 =$

4.  $59 + 59 + 16 =$

5.  $67 + 13 + 67 =$

6.  $29 + 62 + 41 =$



Don't forget when adding 39 you can add 40 and take away 1.

7.  $39 + 64 + 22 =$

8.  $49 + 45 + 25 =$

9.  $79 + 16 + 56 =$

10.  $27 + 69 + 14 =$

11.  $27 + 33 + 48 =$

12.  $78 + 26 + 22 =$

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### Answers

#### Page 1

- |        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. 137 | 2. 104 | 3. 156 | 4. 125 |
| 5. 193 | 6. 138 |        |        |

#### Page 2

- |        |         |         |         |
|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. 132 | 2. 146  | 3. 145  | 4. 134  |
| 5. 147 | 6. 132  | 7. 125  | 8. 119  |
| 9. 151 | 10. 110 | 11. 108 | 12. 126 |