Fifth Grade: Mathematics Unit 1: Math Strategies

Math Strategies for Adding and Subtracting Decimal Numbers

Base-10 Grids

The example below shows 1.43 + 0.87 using base-10 grids.

First, estimate and determine about how many 10×10 grids you will need. You can round 0.87 to 1. One plus 1.43 is about 2.5 so you will need at least three 10×10 grids.

You can use two different colors to represent the two different addends. Shade 1.43 with one color and 0.87 with another color. Add all of the shaded amounts together.







1.43 + 0.87 = 2.3 or 2.30

The example below shows 2.3 - 0.87 using base-10 grids.

First, determine about how many 10 x 10 grids you will need. The first addend determines how many grids you will need. Since it's 2.3, you will need three grids.

Shade only the first addend, which is 2.3.

Next, cross out 0.87 and determine how much is still left.







2.3 - 0.87 = 1.43



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