



NUMBER SENSE CONCEPTS

Basics for the Beginner

Welcome to the world of mental math. For the very young child who has always been encouraged to "show your work," the whole idea of mental computation can be a bit scary. This guide is designed to reduce that anxiety and teach very basic shortcuts which will lead the student to success in number sense competition.

As with most learned concepts, you will find that practice makes perfect, and mental math is no different. Practice is necessary to gain the fluency and speed necessary to succeed in competition.

In over 25 years of teaching the Number Sense contest, I have found that there was very little available for beginners. This guide is designed to address most of the skills included in the first 20 problems of the elementary Number Sense test.

~Martha Godwin

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We are a small company that listens! If you have any questions or if there is an area that you would like fully explored, let us hear from you. We hope you enjoy this product and stay in contact with us throughout your academic journey.

~ President, Hexco Inc., Linda Tarrant

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Mental Math Mentor and Notes

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Chapter 1 - Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, & Division of Whole Numbers

The first step in preparing for the Number Sense competition is to develop fluency in basic computation of all operations. Although counting, adding, and subtracting on your fingers is not against the rules, in this contest, a speedier process is needed for completion of as many problems as possible. Solving basic math problems can become as natural of a response as someone asking for the date of your birthday! PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE! See how long it takes you to answer the following mathematical problems accurately.

1. $8 + 7 =$ _____

13. $17 + 6 =$ _____

2. $15 - 9 =$ _____

14. $13 - 5 =$ _____

3. $3 \times 7 =$ _____

15. $8 \times 5 =$ _____

4. $48 \div 6 =$ _____

16. $45 \div 9 =$ _____

5. $9 + 8 =$ _____

17. $14 + 7 =$ _____

6. $9 - 4 =$ _____

18. $11 - 7 =$ _____

7. $9 \times 8 =$ _____

19. $7 \times 4 =$ _____

8. $81 \div 9 =$ _____

20. $36 \div 6 =$ _____

9. $6 + 7 =$ _____

21. $8 + 5 =$ _____

10. $12 - 6 =$ _____

22. $11 - 5 =$ _____

11. $6 \times 9 =$ _____

23. $5 \times 7 =$ _____

12. $56 \div 8 =$ _____

24. $49 \div 7 =$ _____

Mixed Practice 1

1. $34 + 57 =$ _____
2. The numeral in the tenth's place for 98.743 is _____
3. $6 + 9 + 12 + 15 =$ _____
4. How many odd numbers are between 5 and 15? _____
5. $5 \times 10^1 + 3 \times 10^0 + 7 \times 10^{-1} =$ _____
6. $60 \times 25 =$ _____
7. $6574 \div 5$ has a remainder of _____
8. $84 \times 50 =$ _____
9. XXXIV = _____ (Arabic Number)
- *10. $87 \times 24 =$ _____
10. $97 \times 101 =$ _____
11. $35 \times 35 =$ _____
12. $4 \times 10^2 - 3 \times 10^1 =$ _____
13. $5 + 10 + 15 + 20 =$ _____
14. $18 \times 9 =$ _____
15. $45 \times 55 =$ _____
16. $3 \times 5 \times 7 =$ _____