Addition Strategies

Strategies are a way to learn a fact or to recall a forgotten fact. These strategies are not to be taught as rules, but should be thought of a powerful visual tool. Counting should be discouraged because it is slow, often inaccurate, and unmindful of place value. Some facts can be learned with more than one strategy. Also teach the names of the strategies.

Number plus 1. Adding 1 to a number is the next number.

Even number plus 2. Adding 2 to an even number is the next even number.

Odd number plus 2. Adding 2 to an odd number is the next odd number.

Adding 5 plus numbers 1 to 4. Adding 5 to a number is obvious on fingers or the abacus.

What makes 10. Enter 10 on the abacus. Separate one quantity and see what's left.

Adding 9. Enter 9 on the first wire and the other number, for example, 4 on the second wire. Take 1 from the 4 and give it to the 9 to make a ten. The sum is 10 plus 3, or 13.

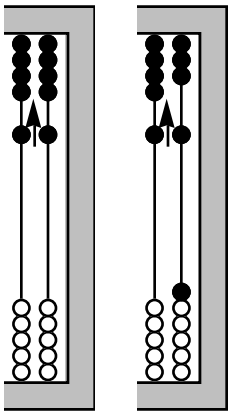
Adding 8. This strategy is similar to adding 9. Two beads are moved back, which is similar to counting by 2s backward.

Two-fives. Both numbers need to be between 5 and 10. For example, enter 8 and 7 on two wires of the abacus. The sum is 10 plus the "leftovers," 3 and 2.

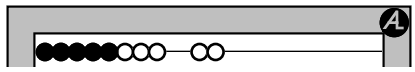
Doubles. New facts with the doubles are 3 + 3 and 4 + 4. Beyond 4 + 4 they can be seen as the Two Fives strategy.

Near Doubles. New facts with the doubles are 3 + 4 and 4 + 5. Beyond 4 + 5 they can be seen as the Two Fives strategy.

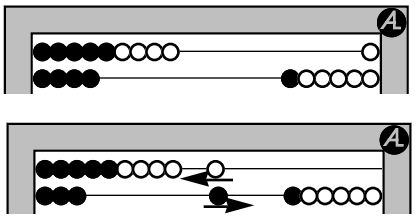
Relating facts. There are four facts not covered with these strategies: 6 + 3, 3 + 6, 4 + 7, and 7 + 4. They can be seen in relation to the 10's facts.



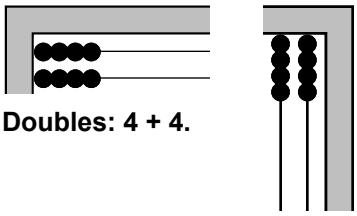
Even + 2. Odd + 2.



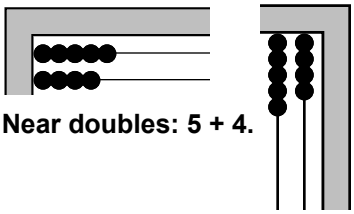
Making 10: 8 + 2 = 10.



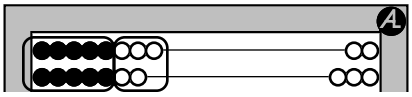
Adding 9: 9 + 4 becomes 10 + 3.



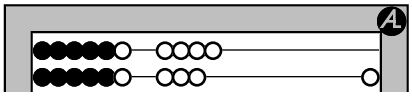
Doubles: 4 + 4.



Near doubles: 5 + 4.



Two 5s: 8 + 7 = 10 plus 3 and 2.



Relating facts. If 6 + 4 = 10, then 6 + 3 = 9.