Bridge to Ten: A Simple Addition Strategy for Year 2

Key points

- Bridging to ten is a mental maths strategy where children split a number to reach 10 first before adding the rest.
- For example, to solve 8 + 5, a child might take 2 from the 5 to make 10, then add the remaining 3 to get 13.
- This method helps children understand how numbers work rather than just memorising a trick.
- It builds on 'number bonds' (pairs of numbers that add up to 10), which children learn in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Year 1.
- This is a core skill for Year 2 that helps children move towards more complex addition later on.

Things to try at home

- Use a ten-frame (a grid of ten squares) or a drawing of one to show how a number 'fills up' to ten.
- Play a quick game with a deck of cards or dice, seeing who can 'bridge to ten' the fastest.
- While shopping, spot two numbers and ask your child how they could jump to ten first to add them together.
- Use a ruler as a simple number line to visually show the jump to 10 and then the final jump to the answer.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher, who can show you the specific methods used in their classroom.
- The GOV.UK website for information on the National Curriculum for Key Stage 1 (KS1).
- The school's homework guidance or parent portal.