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| Numeracy for Nursing |
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| Calculation Strategies 1: Addition |
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There are several ways to approach addition. The method that you have been taught will depend on where (and when!) you were last taught maths at school or college.

The aim of this guide is to reassure you that there are no ‘right’, ‘wrong’ or ‘better’ ways to get to the correct answer – only the way that works best for you! Other students will know and use different methods; this is absolutely fine as long as your own method works! Let’s look at some commonly used strategies:

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| --- | --- |
| * Counting On * Partitioning and Recombining * Using Near Numbers & Adjusting | * Using a Syringe as a Number Line * Vertical Addition – Carrying * Horizontal Addition – No Carrying |

1. **Counting On**

Counting on is a really useful basic strategy for solving addition problems. It simply means counting from a number other than 1

**Example 1:**

5 + 57 : Put the larger number first and count on: 57 + 5 = 62

**Example 2:**

Counting on by breaking into tens and units:

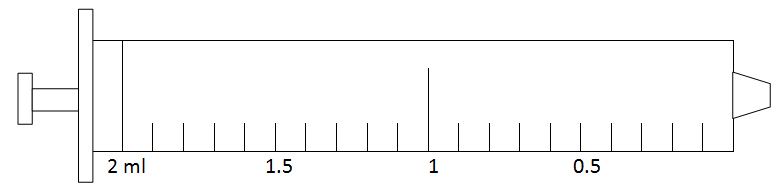
57 + 25 = 57 67 77 77 + 5 = 82

+10 +10

= +20

**Using a syringe as a number line**

It may be useful to use a syringe as a number line for counting on when you are working out straightforward drug calculations!

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1. **Partitioning and Recombining**

Partitioning -Breaking a problem down into numbers that are easier to work with

Recombining - Adding them back together again

**Example 3:**

378ml + 547ml 300 + 500 = 800

70 + 40 = 110

This is an example of the **vertical** method of addition

8 + 7 = 15

**925ml**

This is an example of the **horizontal** method of addition

800 + 110 = 910 910 + 15 = **925ml**

1. **Using Near Numbers and Adjusting**

This is a variation on the theme of using numbers that are easier to work with.

**Example 4:**

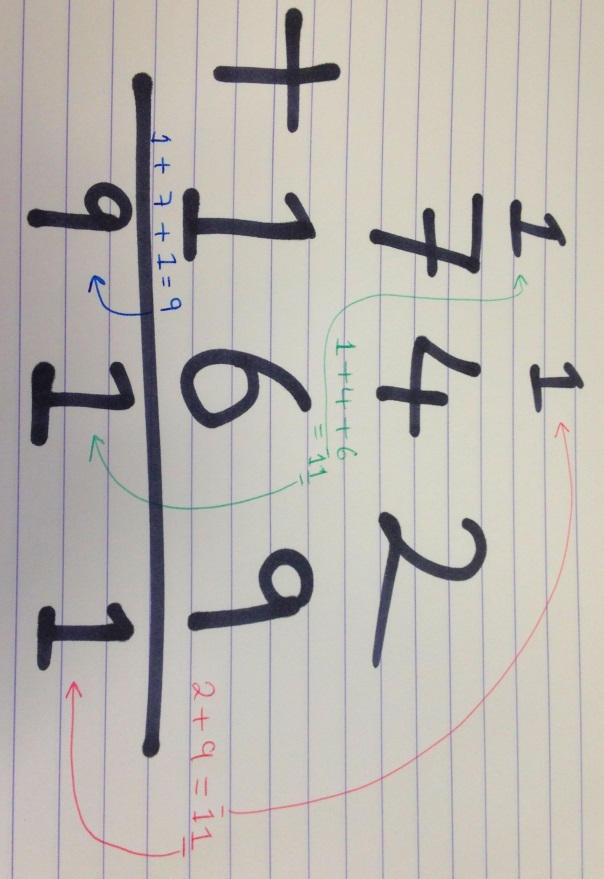
37 mg + 49 mg = 37 + 50 = 87mg

87 – 1 = **86mg**

1. **Vertical Addition**

This method will probably be very familiar from your memories of school maths lessons! It is also known as **column addition**. The screencasts will help to remind you of this method, which may involve carrying numbers over into the next column along.

**Example 5:**

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1. **Horizontal Addition**

This method involves an element of partitioning and recombining. It is easily illustrated using a calculation involving money.

**Example 6:**

£1.56 + £3.72

1. £1.00 + £3.00 = £4.00
2. 50p + 70p = £1.20 (counting on in tens is useful here!)
3. 6p = 2p = 8p
4. £4.00 + £1.20 = £5.20 £5.20 + 8p **= £5.28**