

Addition Written Methods

At the Junior College, we will be using the expanded column method for addition. This leads nicely onto the column method which is specified as the taught formal written method in the New Primary National Curriculum. The reason we teach this expanded version first is because it helps to demonstrate clearly how the column method works by showing exactly where the values in the answer come from.

The method, when completed, looks like this:

$$56 + 33 = 89 \quad 92 + 53 = 145 \quad 98 + 64 = 162 \quad 362 + 257 = 619$$

	T	U	
	5	6	
	3	3	+
		9	
	8	0	+
	8	9	

	T	U	
	9	2	
	5	3	+
		5	
	1	4	0
	1	4	5

	H	T	U	
		9	8	
		6	4	+
			1	2
	1	5	0	+
	1	6	2	

	H	T	U	
	3	6	2	
	2	5	7	+
			9	
	1	1	0	+
	5	0	0	
	6	1	9	

Success steps to using this method:

1. Begin by adding the units (ones) first. On the first line, write how many units there are in total.
2. Next add the tens. Count up in tens very carefully, particularly where 100 is bridged. Write this amount on the second line.
3. Check the digit you have just written in the units column is a zero.
4. Find the total of the values created so far and write this between the two smaller lines at the bottom. This is your answer!
5. Check your calculating extremely carefully (by adding the numbers again) to make sure the answer is correct.

This method is designed to then lead on to the formal written column method for addition (below) as specified in the New National Curriculum. This must be used from year 5 at the latest:

789 + 642 becomes

	7	8	9	
+	6	4	2	
	1	4	3	1
	1	1		

Answer: 1431