

Tens and Ones

1st Grade

Why the 4 in 47 is worth forty, not four.

In a two-digit number, the left digit counts tens and the right digit counts ones.

$$47 = 4 \text{ tens} + 7 \text{ ones}$$

36

3 tens, 6 ones

Thirty and six — say it and you can hear it.

80

8 tens, 0 ones

The zero holds the ones place open.

19

1 ten, 9 ones

Nineteen breaks the pattern when you say it, not when you write it.

52

5 tens, 2 ones

Fifty-two. The tens come first in speech too.

THE COMMON MISTAKE

✗ 47 is a 4 and a 7

✓ 47 is 40 and 7

The position tells you the value. Swap the digits and 74 is a completely different number.

Ten ones can always be traded for one ten. That trade is what carrying is.