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October 25, 2017

Wars

Math 2008

 How is Mental Computation Used in Real Life?

Sometimes one may need mental computation to solve a problem. Mental computation is the most common form of computation used in everyday life. The purpose of mental computation is for quick calculations and estimations. It refers to the process of working out and obtaining exact or approximate answers mentally. Depending on the number of steps involved, this process may be assisted by writing down quick steps to help support someone’s short term memory. Mental computation includes addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, counting on and back, partitioning one number into tens, grouping compatible numbers, and estimation.

Normally, one would use mental computation at home or at a job. In today’s world of computers and calculators, mental computation skills are much more important. This is because, even though calculators and cash registers make it unnecessary to do calculations in many situations, it can be easy for someone to trust them, by entering the wrong amount or doing something wrong with it. Mental computation often involves the use of estimation.

When one actually thinks about it, everyone uses math every day. We usually do not use a calculator or write down computations. A lot of what we have to do involves mental computation. For example, if you decide to order a pizza for 7 people, you can get the idea of how many slices each person will eat, but you will not know for sure until they eat it. If you estimate that each person will eat 2 slices, you will need 14 slices. Many people do not realize that we do so many mental computations every day without even realizing it. If people would start pointing them out to others, they would see that mental computation is used in real life. Math and mental computation is everywhere.