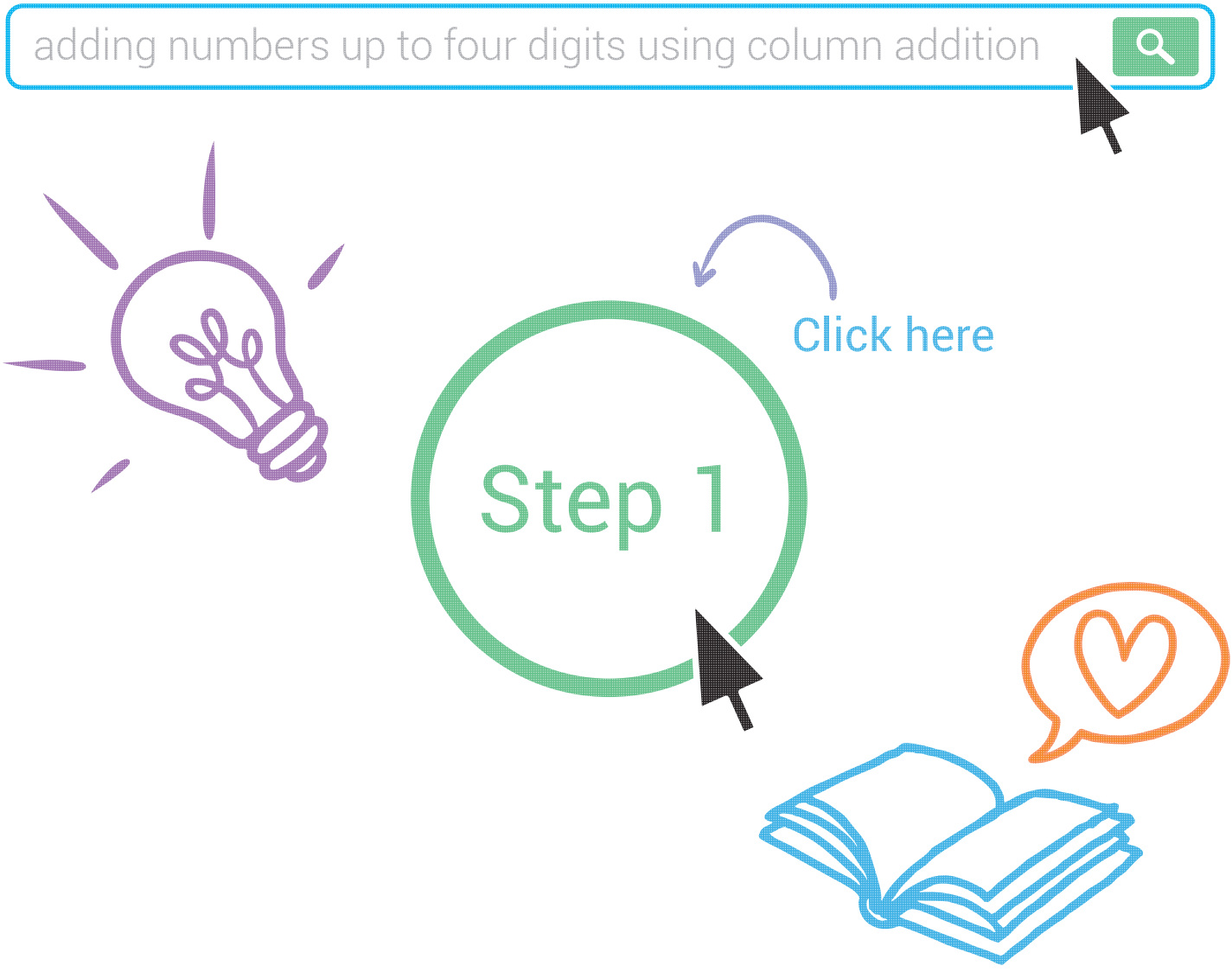
# Year 4 Addition and Subtraction: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to year 4 addition and subtraction can help you support your child's learning at home. The subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when learning about year 4 addition and subtraction, either to support your child's homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. In this guide, you will find a step that matches your child's level of understanding and then have suggested activities which can be used to support that step.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.




We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

# Addition and Subtraction

## What Are Children Taught about Addition and Subtraction in Year 4?

In year 4, children are taught to:

- add up to four-digit numbers using column addition;
- subtract up to four-digit numbers using column subtraction;
- estimate and use the inverse operation to check answers to calculations;
- solve two-step addition and subtraction problems.

This guide can help you support the learning of year 4 addition and subtraction at home. Each step contains an explanation to that stage and a link to an appropriate resource which can be used at home to support your child's learning.

As well as using the resources in this category and the keyword searches to help your child with addition and subtraction, a few ideas for games and activities to help your child practise adding and subtracting at home are outlined below.

### Random Numbers

Write a selection of three-digit numbers on pieces of paper, fold them up and place in a bag. On a normal dice, add a plain sticker to each face and write the following to each face: + 1, + 10, + 100, - 1, - 10, -100. Take it in turns at selecting a number and rolling the dice. Do the calculation on the dice to the selected number. If correct, you get to keep that number. The winner is the player with the most numbers at the end.

### Counting

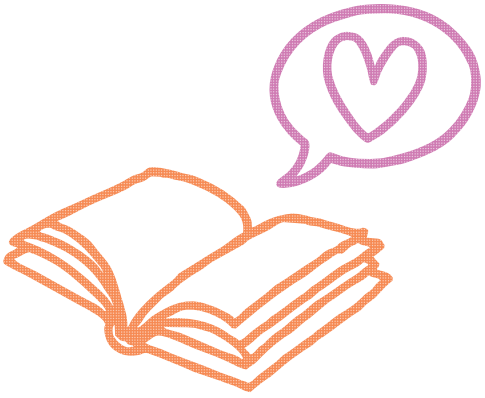
Choose a three-digit number and count forwards or backwards together in steps of ones, tens or hundreds. You can also make this into a turn-taking activity where you say one number then your child says the next in the sequence and so forth.

### Shopping

There are lots of opportunities when out shopping for your child to practise their addition and subtraction skills. You could ask your child to: check the receipt by adding up the cost of items; calculate the change; calculate the price of two or three items you are buying etc. This gives addition and subtraction a purposeful and real-life context.

### Let's Play Inverse

This is a fun activity you can do to practise doing the inverse (the opposite calculation) with your child. Give them a simple calculation, such as 4 + 5 = 9, and ask them to think of an inverse calculation, such as 9 – 5 = 4. They can then challenge you to do one and check if you are correct. This can help your child understand the inverse operation.



Step 1

## Add Numbers up to Four Digits Using Column Addition

In year 4, children will continue to practise developing their understanding of column addition and practise using this to add four-digit numbers. At first, children will often complete calculations where there is no exchange (carrying-over) and then build up to calculations where there is an exchange (a carry-over). To help your child at home, try using this booklet which includes column addition.

Step 2

## Subtract Numbers up to Four Digits Using Column Method

Like addition, children will continue to practise developing their understanding of column subtraction and practise using it (to help you and your child learn how to use column subtraction, try this poster). Children will begin by concentrating on calculations with no exchanging (borrowing) and then build up to calculations with exchanging. In school, visual apparatus (such as place value counters), are often used to show the exchange to help children understand it. At home, help your child to practise this method by using this **Subtracting Four-Digit Numbers Without Exchanging** worksheet or this **Subtracting Four-Digit Numbers with Exchanging** worksheet.

Step 3

## Estimate Answers and Use the Inverse Operation to Check Answers

The inverse operation just means the opposite operation. For example, addition and subtraction are the inverse of each other (multiplication and division are inverse operations). In year 4, children are taught to use the inverse to check the answers to calculations. For example, in the calculation 1356 + 1472 = 2828, you can use an inverse calculation to check that the answer is correct. In this case, there are two invoice calculations you could do, 2828 - 1472 = 1356 or 2828 - 1356 = 1472. Children are often encouraged to use the column method to complete inverse calculations. At home, try this worksheet to help your child practice this.



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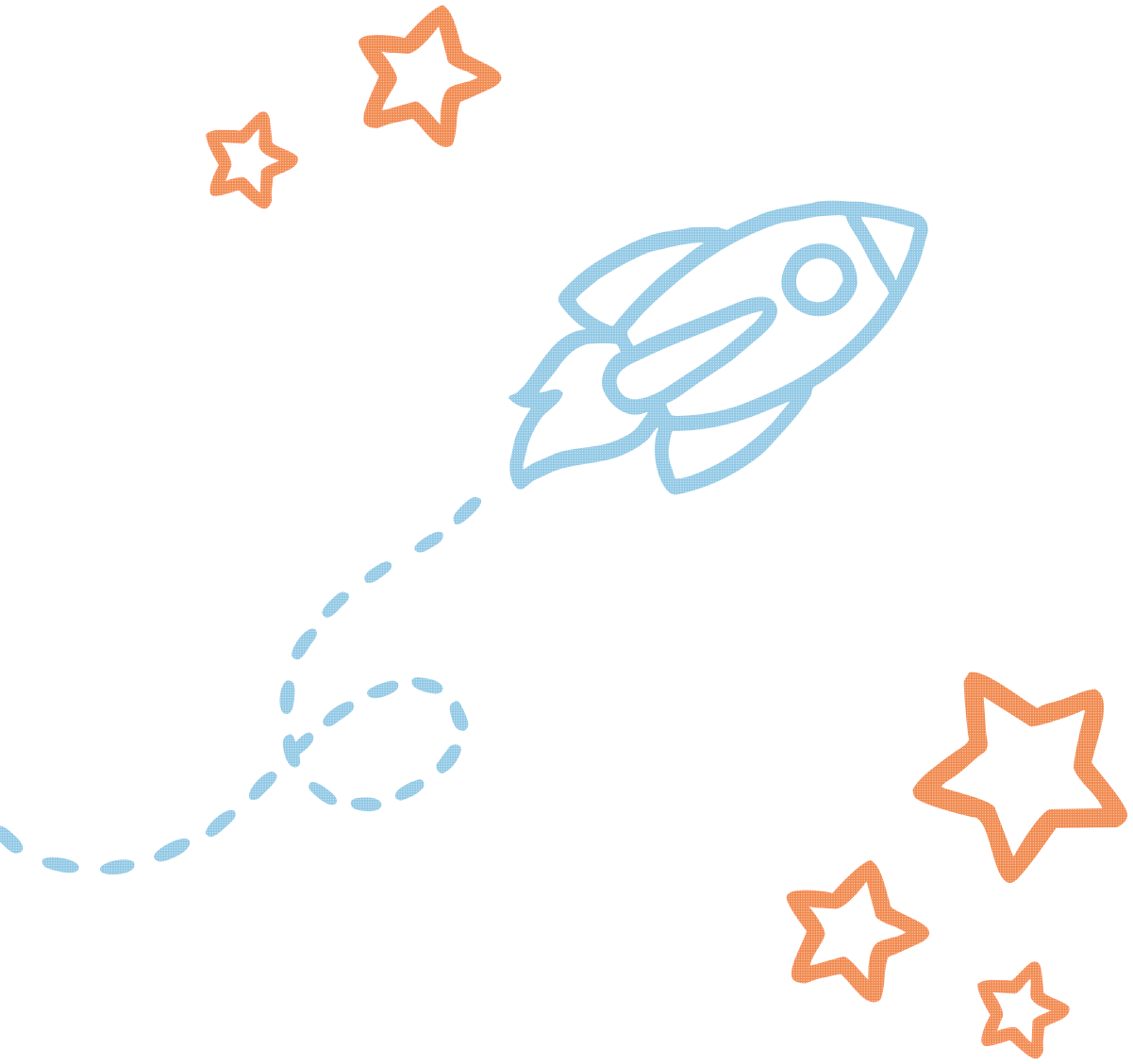
Step 4

## Solving Two-Step Addition and Subtraction Problems

A two-step problem is one that involves using more than one calculation to solve the problem. For example, in the following problem, both addition and subtraction have to be used to calculate the answer:

1472 people were surveyed at a zoo. They are asked which their favourite animal is. 672 said a lion. 448 said elephant. The rest liked other animals. How many people liked other animals?

In this problem, you first need to add the number of people whose favourite animal is lion, to the number of people whose favourite animal is elephant. Then, subtract this number form the total number of people who like at the zoo. At home, try using these word problems together to help your child practise solving two-step word problems.





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Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire children from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!