



ANCHOR CHART · GRADE 5 · 5.NBT.B.7

Adding and Subtracting Decimals

Tenths join tenths. Hundredths join hundredths. The point is what keeps them honest.

1 Same Place, Same Column

	Tens	Ones	Tenths	Hundredths
		1		
	1	2	. 7	5
+		3	. 4	0
	1	6	. 1	5

Only like units combine. Seven tenths and four tenths make **eleven tenths**, which trades for one whole and one tenth, exactly the way ten ones trade for a ten.

2 The Ends Do Not Line Up

12.75	12.75
+ 3.4	+ 3.40
13.09	16.15
✗ flush ends	✓ points stacked

Pushing the ends flush is a **whole number** habit. It slides 3.4 into the tenths and hundredths and quietly turns it into 0.34.

3 Give It a Point, Give It Zeros

8 = 8.00	8.00
<i>the point hides</i>	– 2.35
<i>after the ones</i>	
	5.65

Every whole number already owns a point. Trailing zeros fill the empty places and change **nothing**: $8 = 8.0 = 8.00$.

4 Estimate Before You Believe It

$$12.75 + 3.4 \approx 13 + 3 = 16 \rightarrow 16.15 \checkmark$$

$$8 - 2.35 \approx 8 - 2 = 6 \rightarrow 5.65 \checkmark$$

13.09 is nowhere near 16. A missed estimate is the columns telling on you.

Round to whole numbers first, then read the answer back against it.