

Mia and Sam's Apple Adding Adventure



Figure 1: A friendly cartoon-style scene of two children counting a pile of shiny apples and a coiled measuring tape on a wooden table, with

Mia counted her apples. "I have 40," she said. Sam counted his. "I have 30."
"Let's find our total," said Mia. "40 plus 30 makes 70."
Sam grinned. "What if we add 6 more? 70 plus 6 is 76." (Or, for a make-ten example: "I have 34 apples. 34 plus 6 makes 40, because 4 and 6 make a ten.")
They checked with cubes, ten by ten. It matched.
Later, they measured a rope. It was 80 centimetres long. They cut off 30.
"How much is left?" asked Sam.
Mia thought. "80 minus 30 is 50. Let's check by adding. 50 plus 30 makes 80. Yes!"
They tried it another way, adding 20 then 10 to 50. Same answer, every time.
"Numbers work no matter how you build them," said Mia, smiling.

Words to know

- **sum**: the answer when you add numbers together
- **minuend**: the starting number you subtract from
- **ten-frame**: a 2-by-5 grid of ten spaces used to group numbers by tens
- **inverse operation**: the opposite action, like using addition to check subtraction

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