

Estimates

Annotation

Rick works easily with positive and negative integers, he sensibly and readily estimates the solutions to problems involving the addition and subtraction for decimals and integers, and can explain his thinking.

Problem: Estimates

The teacher shows this problem to the student and reads it with him as required:

You and your classmate Dan have been making quick estimates of solutions to some money problems. What do you think of Dan's estimates?

$$\$249.42 - \$394.42 = -\$255$$

$$\$78.85 + \$79.85 + \$98.60 = \$301.20$$

$$\$71.43 - \$69.88 = \$11.60$$

Student response

Rick: Dan isn't that great on estimating.

Teacher: How do you know that?

I just know that it can't be -255 because if I took 400 from 250 it'd be -150, not like -250. You can kind of ignore the .42 bit because that's being subtracted anyway. And that one

Rick: would be like $80 + 80 + 100$, which'd be more like 260. The last one's out too because it'd be about \$1.60 not \$11.60, because it's like $\$71.50 - \70 . Mmm... he needs to improve his estimation I reckon.