People on the bus

Annotation

Rapata solves this problem by counting on from the bigger number and explains that this is more efficient. He knows that he can change the order of addends without changing the sum (the commutative property). In his response he recognises the context of the problem.

Problem: People on the bus

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

5 people were on the bus and another 28 got on. How many people are on the bus now?

Student response

Rapata:	It's 33 people.
Teacher:	Tell me how you did that.
Rapata:	I know to put the big number first so I counted on from 28, like 29, 30, 31, 32, 33.
Teacher:	Tell me why you did it that way.
Rapata:	Like I said, you count on from the bigger number. It would take too long to count the other way.
Teacher:	How would you record that?
Rapata:	These are both the same, but I did it the first way. They both make thirty-three.