

My bank account

Annotation

Ngahina uses standard place value partitioning to solve this problem and indicates that this is her preferred strategy. She explains that adding in tens (10) makes finding the difference easier.

Problem: My bank account

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

I put \$35 into my bank account. I now have \$54 in my account. How much did I have to start with?

Student response

Ngahina: Nineteen dollars.

Teacher: Tell me how you did that.

I know if I start at 35 and add something up to 54 I'll find out what I started with. So I

Ngahina: added 10 to get to 45 and then it's just another 9 to make 54. And so it's 19 because that 10 and that 9 make 19.

Teacher: Tell me why you did it that way.

Ngahina: Because I always find it easier to add tens and then the extra ones.

Teacher: How would you record that?

Ngahina: I'd write it like I did it.

$$35 + 10 + 9 = 54$$