

Handy Counters

Annotation

Ihaka solves this addition problem by counting each item one-to-one to find the total.

Problem: Handy counters

The teacher places a group of counters in each of the student's hands and poses this problem:

You have 7 counters in this hand and 4 counters in this hand. How many counters do you have altogether?



Student response

Ihaka opens both hands. He tips the 7 counters onto the table and counts them with one hand from 1. He then opens his other hand and keeps the count going, saying, "8, 9, 10, 11. I've got 11. I counted them."

Teacher: How would you write that?

Ihaka: Like this. That's that seven (pointing) and that's that four (pointing) and that's how much all of them is (pointing to 11).

$$7 + 4 = 11$$