

MATH RESCUE

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DATA SHEET 01-A

THE HIPPOPOTAMUS RULE

“You can only add or subtract like things; apples to apples, oranges to oranges, bananas to bananas, and **HIPPOPOTAMUSES TO HIPPOPOTAMUSES**”. That is why it is called the **hippopotamus** rule. *

Even when we add whole numbers, we always line up the numbers according to the place value like this **528** not this **528**

+243 **+243**

Because we must add ones to ones, tens to tens, and hundreds to hundreds. In the days ahead, we will see just how important this rule is. When it becomes necessary to add things that are not exactly alike, we can always find labels that are accurate for all of the things that we add. For example; if we are asked to add cats and dogs, we know that they are both animals so we could label both as animals. We could be even more specific and label both as mammals.

* SOME PEOPLE, (who don't know any better) MAY CALL THIS RULE BY SOME OTHER NAME.