









• Use sets to represent the following two expressions:

(3+4)+2

• 3+(4+2)

• What do you notice?

 If a, b and c are whole numbers then (a+b)+c=a+(b+c)



• How do you explain the fact that for any whole number

Same sets

0+a=a+0=a?

• 0 is the only whole number with this property. We say that 0 is the *additive identity*.

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Equal sign

- What does the equal sign mean?
- Students often interpret it as "Do something"
- The symbol = means that the number (object) on its left is equal to the number (object) on its right.

Exercise

- Show how to find the sum 143+234 using base ten blocks, chip abacus and place value.
- Do the same for 274+357.