New Math Homework Translator

A one-page guide for parents who learned math the "old" way. Same answers, different order

The 4-Step Homework Routine

1. Read the directions aloud and underline the method name, such as "use a number line."
2. Say "Show me how your teacher did it," and let your child finish.
3. Solve it your way on scrap paper and compare answers, not steps.
4. If the answers differ, find the first step where the numbers stop matching.

Your Way vs. Their Way

Problem	Your Way (Old Math)	Their Way (New Math)
46 + 38	6 + 8 = 14, carry 1; 4 + 3 + 1 = 8; answer 84	Number line: 46 + 4 = 50, 50 + 34 = 84
62 − 27	Borrow: 12 − 7 = 5, 5 − 2 = 3; answer 35	Count up: 27 + 3 = 30, 30 + 32 = 62; 3 + 32 = 35
24 × 13	24 × 3 = 72, 24 × 10 = 240; 72 + 240 = 312	Area model: 20×10 + 20×3 + + 4×10 + 4×3 = 200 + 60 + + 40 + 12 = 312
156 ÷ 12	15 ÷ 12 = 1 R3, bring down 6, 36 ÷ 12 = 3; answer 13	Partial quotients: 156 − 120 = = 36 (10 groups), 36 − 36 = = 0 (3 groups); 10 + 3 = 13

Worksheet Term Decoder

Term	What It Means	Old Math Step It Replaces
Number bond	A number split into two parts (10 = 7 + 3)	Memorized facts
Decompose	Break a number by place value (46 = 40 + 6)	Lining up columns
Number line	Jumps to add or subtract	Carrying, borrowing
Area model	A rectangle split by place value to multiply	Long multiplication
Partial products	Pieces of an area model, added at the end	Rows of long multiplication
Partial quotients	Subtracting easy multiples of the divisor	Long division
Regrouping	Today's name for carrying and borrowing	Carrying, borrowing

When Does the "Old Way" Come Back?

Operation	Standard Algorithm Expected	Common Core Standard
Addition and subtraction	Grade 4	4.NBT.B.4
Multiplication	Grade 5	5.NBT.B.5
Division	Grade 6	6.NS.B.2

Parent tip: Share your method only after your child explains the school strategy, then use it as a quick answer check.

Source: Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (thecorestandards.org). All worked examples verified, November 2026. © Brighterly · brighterly.com

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