ANSWER   # Using Rounding Up or Down to Estimate an Answer
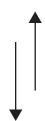
What is easier to do in your in head?

    800 + 100
    OR
    372 + 621 ?

You probably chose 800 + 100. All you have to do is add 8 + 1 and add two zeros. Sometimes when you need a quick answer that doesn't have to be exact, you can estimate by rounding.

Let's take 372 + 621 again. How can we turn this into an easy problem with lots of zeros? You can do this by rounding to the nearest hundred.

1.   Look at the number in the tens place, the one immediately to the right of the hundreds place.

2.   If it is 5 or over, round up to the next hundred by adding 1 to the hundreds place.

3.   For 372, the tens digit is 7. It's 5 or greater, so we add 1 to 3 and get 4 in the hundreds place. 4_ _.

4.   What do we put in the tens and ones place? We put zeros because we have rounded up. 400.

5.   Let's do the same with 621. Because 2 is less than 5, we round down to the nearest hundred which is 6.

Now it's time to do the addition

400 + 600 = 1,000.

This is our estimated answer. What's the exact answer?
It's 993, which is pretty close in value.

Answer the following multiple choice questions by rounding up or rounding down the numbers in the problem provided. None of the possible answers is correct, but one is closer to the correct answer than any of the others. Pick the approximate answer provided that is closest to the correct answer.

1. 328 + 598 =

a. 800
b. 80
c. 8,000

2. 52 + 49 =

a. 10
b. 1,000
c. 100

3. 784 + 81 =

a. 8,800
b. 88
c. 880

4. 756 – 39 =

a. 7,000
b. 700
c. 70

5. 4,124 – 139 =

a. 39
b. 390
c. 3,900