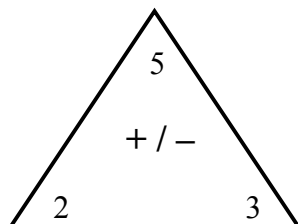# Math Fact Triangles

Please note: The functions "Multiplication" & "Division" can be substituted for the functions "Addition" and "Subtraction" in the examples on this page.

- Adding the bottom two numbers equals the sum at the top
- Subtracting either of the bottom two numbers *from* the top equals the other bottom number.
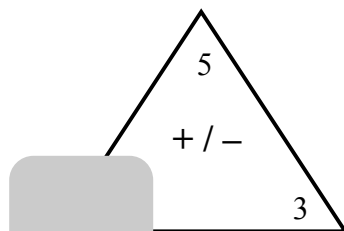
Example:
2 + 3 = 5
3 + 2 = 5   This is called a **"Fact Family"**
5 – 2 = 3
5 – 3 = 2

When one of the numbers is covered, students can either add or subtract in order to find out what the covered number is.

Example:

5 minus 3 is… 2!

The idea is to study the numbers on the triangle as they relate to each other. The fact family should become familiar enough to the student that whenever he or she sees two of the numbers, the last number can be stated automatically. This is called "automaticity".

With automaticity, in "**subtraction mode**" one could say the numbers 5, 3 and the student will state, "2".   8, 2, "6";   7, 3, "4"… and so on.

With automaticity, in "**addition mode**" one could say the numbers 2, 3 and the student will state, "5".   6, 2, "8";   4, 3, "7"… and so on.

With automaticity, in "**multiplication mode**" one could say the numbers 5, 3 and the student will state, "15".   8, 2, "16";   7, 3, "21"… and so on.

With automaticity, in "**division mode**" one could say the numbers 15, 3 and the student will state, "5".   16, 2, "8";   21, 3, "7"… and so on.