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Mr. Rasmusen’s Math Class

 **The Distributive Property**

 The distributive property is about how addition and multiplication can be combined and taken apart. The basic idea is illustrated by:

5\*(8+3) = 5\*8 + 5\*3

 = 40 + 15

 = 55

 In that example, you get to do two single digit multiplications, 5\*8 and 5\*3 instead of one double digit one, 5\*11 = 55.

 We can illustrate this as a rectangle:

 Another example is

5\*603 = 5\*(600 + 3) = 5\*600 + 5\*3

 = 3,000 + 15

 = 3,015

 Here is a more complicated example:

23 \* 78 = (20+3)\*(70+8)

 = 20\*(70+8) + 3\*(70+8)

 = 20\*70 + 20\*8 + 3\*70 + 3\*8

 = 1400 + 160 + 210 + 24