

Math Diversion Problem 508

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April 10, 2025

He who would ride two camels, finds he can ride neither.
— From an old movie

The problem is found at:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVbvcKsmqbs>

Title: A factorial exercise

Presenter: Prime Newtons

1 The Problem

Prove the relation

$$\binom{n}{k} + \binom{n}{k-1} = \binom{n+1}{k}. \quad (1)$$

2 The Solution

$$\binom{n}{k} + \binom{n}{k-1} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} + \frac{n!}{(k-1)!(n-(k-1))!} \quad (2)$$

$$= \frac{n!}{(k-1)!} \left[\frac{1}{k(n-k)!} + \frac{1}{(n+1-k)!} \right] \quad (3)$$

$$= \frac{n!}{(k-1)!} \left[\frac{(n+1-k)}{k(n-k)!(n+1-k)} + \frac{k}{k(n+1-k)!} \right] \quad (4)$$

$$= \frac{n!}{k!(n+1-k)!} \left[\frac{(n+1-k)}{1} + \frac{k}{1} \right] \quad (5)$$

$$= \frac{n!(n+1)}{k!(n+1-k)!} = \frac{(n+1)!}{k!(n+1-k)!} \quad (6)$$

$$= \binom{n+1}{k} \quad (7)$$