

# Numbers

## Topic

Numbers, maths, world records, board games

## Aims

- To help learners talk about and use numbers
- To help learners do simple maths in English
- To develop learners' listening, speaking and writing skills

## Age

Older primary (9–11 years)

## Time

60 minutes

## Materials

1. Word games: 'Numbers 1-10', 'Numbers 11-20' and 'Numbers 10-100'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/word-games/numbers-1-10>  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/word-games/numbers-11-20>  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/word-games/numbers-10-100>
2. Story, activity sheet, answers and transcript: 'Record breakers'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/short-stories/record-breakers>
3. Game: 'Magic Monkey'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/games/magic-monkey>
4. Craft activity: 'Snakes and ladders'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/crafts/snakes-and-ladders>
5. Your turn: 'Numbers'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/your-turn/numbers>
6. Worksheets: 'Numbers'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/worksheets/numbers>

For a complete list of all 'Numbers' content on LearnEnglish Kids, click here:

<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/category/topics/numbers>

## Introduction

In this lesson learners play a numbers game and try some maths, listen to and read a story, then play a board game. They talk about numbers in a class discussion and then either write a comment online or complete a worksheet on this topic for homework.

**Procedure**

<b>1. Introduction to numbers and maths (10 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play one of the numbers word games online. Alternatively, draw a circle on the board and write various numbers inside it. Ask two learners to come to the board and give each one a pen. Shout out a number. The first learner to cross it out gets a point.</li> <li>• Write two or three simple sums on the board, e.g. <math>12 + 5 = \underline{\quad}</math> or <math>21 - 4 = \underline{\quad}</math></li> <li>• Ask for volunteers to write the answers. Use these examples to teach or revise 'plus', 'minus', 'equals'. Now dictate some simple sums to the class; the learners write and answer. In pairs learners take turns to dictate simple sums to each other.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Story (20 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write the numbers 3,750 (three thousand seven hundred and fifty) and 61.24 (sixty one point two four) on the board. Ask learners if they know how to say these numbers, then drill them with the class.</li> <li>• Play the 'Record breakers' story. Very large numbers are practised in the story as the girl tries to break lots of fun world records.</li> <li>• Play the story at least twice. During the first listening ask them to remember what the world records are.</li> <li>• During the second listening and reading you could ask them to do the matching exercises from the worksheet. The second part of this provides practice in reading and recognising very large numbers.</li> <li>• Early finishers can play the Magic Monkey game. Children have to follow the monkey's instructions and think of a number.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Play a board game (20 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play a game of snakes and ladders. Print enough copies of the board game and dice and counters craft activity for groups of three or four. Children can cut out and make the dice and counters.</li> <li>• Display the instructions and read through them as a class. Ask the class what happens if they land on a ladder (they move to the top of the ladder) and a snake (they slide down to the bottom of the snake).</li> <li>• Before the groups play the game, drill useful expressions such as 'It's my/your turn', 'Shake the dice', 'Move the counter', 'I've finished'.</li> <li>• As learners play the game, monitor and help as necessary. Make the game more challenging by telling learners to spell the number of the square that they land on.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Discussion (10 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Either display the 'Numbers' Your turn or ask the learners the following questions: <i>Do you have a lucky number? What do different numbers mean in your country? Are some luckier than others? Can you count backwards very quickly? Can you count backwards from 20 to 0 in English?</i></li> <li>• Discuss the questions as a class. Children can work in pairs to practise counting backwards in English.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Homework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your learners are members of LearnEnglish Kids, they can also read the comments on the 'Numbers' Your turn and leave their own comment on the page.</li> <li>• Alternatively, you could give them one of the 'Numbers' worksheets to try at home.</li> </ul>

**Contributed by**

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