

# Numbers

## Topic

Numbers, maths, world records, board games

## Aims

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

## Age group

8-10

## Level

A2

## Time

60 minutes

## Materials

Please note: to access the downloadable worksheets, you need to log in separately to [LearnEnglish Kids](#).

1. Maths game  
<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/word-games/fill-the-gap/numbers>
2. Record breakers story  
<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/short-stories/record-breakers>
3. Magic monkey game  
<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/fun-games/magic-monkey>
4. Snakes and ladders board game  
<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/craft-downloads/snakes-and-ladders>
5. Numbers your turn  
<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/your-turn/numbers>

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

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

## Introduction

In this lesson students play a maths game, listen to and read a story, then play a board game. They talk about numbers and then 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>• To introduce the topic of numbers try this simple numbers game. Draw a circle on the board and write numbers randomly inside it. Ask two students to come to the board. Give each one a piece of chalk or a pen. Shout out a number. The first student to cross out the number gets a point.</li> <li>• Write two or three simple sums on the board, e.g.  <math>12 + 5 =</math>  <math>21 - 4 =</math></li> <li>• Ask for volunteers to write the answers. Use these examples to teach or revise the words 'plus', 'minus', 'equals'. Now dictate some simple sums to the class; the students write and answer. In pairs students take turns to dictate simple sums to each other.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Play a game (5 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play a maths game in teams. Each team takes turns to answer one of the eight gap fill maths questions. <a href="http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/word-games/fill-the-gap/numbers">http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/word-games/fill-the-gap/numbers</a></li> </ul>
<b>3. Story (15 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 the children if they know how to say these numbers, then drill them with the class to practise big numbers and numbers with decimal places.</li> <li>• Play the 'Record breakers' story <a href="http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/short-stories/record-breakers">http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/short-stories/record-breakers</a>. 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 a game of Magic Monkey. Children have to follow the monkey's instructions and think of a number.  <a href="http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/fun-games/magic-monkey">http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/fun-games/magic-monkey</a></li> </ul>
<b>4. 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 this board game for groups of three or four <a href="http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/craft-downloads/snakes-and-ladders">http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/craft-downloads/snakes-and-ladders</a>.</li> <li>• Children can cut out and make the dice and counters that come with the downloadable game.</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 students play the game, monitor and help as necessary.</li> <li>• Make the game more challenging by telling students they have to spell the number of the square that they land on.</li> </ul>

<b>5. Discussion (10 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Either display the 'Numbers' Your turn <a href="http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/your-turn/numbers">http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/your-turn/numbers</a> or ask the students 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>6. Homework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There are worksheets at three different levels attached to the 'Numbers' Your turn above. 'Activity 3' is the most difficult. Choose the most appropriate one for your students to complete at home.</li><li>• Find lots of activities to practise numbers, including games and songs for very young learners, by typing 'numbers' in the search function on LearnEnglish Kids.</li></ul>

**Contributed by**

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