

Counting collections introduction

You will need a real collection of around 110 to 120 objects to count for this lesson — counting collections themselves is already familiar, so the objects just need to be there ready to group.

1 Once you pass ten groups, naming the total is the new part

Quickly group a large collection into tens the way children already know how to. This part is not new — move through it quickly.

"You already know this bit — make groups of ten, then count the groups. Let's do that quickly."

Reach exactly ten groups.

"Ten groups of ten. That is one hundred."

Make an eleventh group. This is the new, harder part — naming what eleven groups of ten is worth.

"Now there is an eleventh group. Eleven groups of ten — what does that make? One hundred and ten."

Make a twelfth group.

"A twelfth group. Twelve tens is one hundred and twenty."

Name the pattern: past ten groups, keep counting the groups the same way — eleven, twelve — but each one is worth a whole ten now.

"Ten tens is a hundred. After that it is just eleven, twelve, the same counting as always — but each group is worth ten."

Show a common mistake: calling eleven groups of ten 'eleven hundred' instead of one hundred and ten. Check it: how many hundreds do we actually have here?

"I said eleven groups of ten is 'eleven hundred'. But that is not right. We only have one hundred, plus one more ten — one hundred and ten."