

Using MAB ones introduction



1 The MAB one — group it just like anything else

Give each student a pile of MAB ones (unit cubes). Each cube is one — the same as one counter or one stick. This is the standard block we will use from now on.

“This little cube is a MAB one — it is worth one, just like one counter or one stick. Feel how small it is.”

Count a pile the slow way first — count the cubes one by one and notice how easy it is to lose track, just like before.

“Count these cubes one by one. Was it easy to keep track? What could we do to make it safer?”

Group them into tens by moving them — push ten cubes together into a group, then another, until only a few are loose. No mat, nothing to write.

“Push ten cubes together — that is a group of ten. Make another, and another, until only a few are loose.”

Count the groups by tens, then the loose ones — ten, twenty, thirty, then count on. Faster, and you do not lose your place. It is the same idea as the sticks, with a new block.

“Count the groups — ten, twenty, thirty — then count on the loose ones. Same idea as the sticks, new block.”

Cross a ten — when the loose ones reach ten, push them together to make one more group. The ones start again from just a few, and there is one more group of ten.

“Ten loose ones? Push them together — that is one more group. Now how many groups, how many loose ones?”