

1

Fill the scoop, count the scoops

Give each pair an eggcup, a mixing bowl, one scoop and a tub of rice. Fill the scoop level and tip it into the eggcup, counting out loud until the eggcup is full. Then do the same with the mixing bowl, using that same scoop.

"It took two scoops to fill the eggcup. How many will the bowl take?"

"Which one needed more scoops? What does that tell us about how much it holds?"

2

Pour one into the other

Fill a tall thin jar to the very top with rice, stand a short wide bowl on a tray and pour the whole jar into the bowl. The rice does not reach the top of the bowl. Ask for a prediction first, because most students will say the jar holds more.

"The jar is taller. Which one do you think holds more?"

"The jar is empty and the bowl is not full. Which one holds more?"

3

Two students, two scoops

Ask two students to fill the same bowl and count, handing one a small scoop and the other a large one without saying that the scoops are different sizes. The two counts come out different.

"You both filled the same bowl. How can the numbers be different?"

"Which scoop made the bigger number? Why?"

The number counts scoops, not the bowl, so two counts only match up when the same scoop made both of them.