

Using bundles to make tens activities



1 Predict, then bundle and state

Before bundling, students predict how many bundles their pile will make. Then they bundle, hold the bundles in one hand and the loose ones in the other, and say how many bundles, how many loose ones, and how many altogether.

"Before you start — how many bundles do you think you will make? Now bundle and check."

"How many bundles? How many loose? How many altogether?"

2 Unbundle and check

Give a set of bundles and loose ones. Students count it as tens-and-ones, then take the bands off and count everything as ones. The total is the same.

"Two tens and seven — count it. Now take the bands off and count all the ones. Same total?"

"What changed when you unbundled? What stayed the same?"

3 Trade ten for one

One student collects loose ones; when they reach ten, they trade the ten ones for one bundle. Continue until the collection is bundled.

"When you have ten loose ones, trade them for one bundle."

"More or fewer sticks after the trade? How do you know?"

4 Non-example: the bundle of eleven

Give a collection called "three bundles and four ones" (should be thirty-four), but one bundle secretly holds eleven. Students count everything to check.

"This should be thirty-four. Count everything — is it? What went wrong?"

"A bundle of eleven cannot stand for ten — how do we fix it?"