

Turning part part whole worded problems into bar models introduction

1 Build it on the mat, then bar it

Place 3 guitar cards and 2 more guitar cards in the mat's parts row.

"Three guitars, two more guitars. Can you picture both amounts?"

Both amounts are parts we already know, so both go in the part boxes. The whole is what we don't know yet — it gets the question mark.

"Three and two are both parts. What goes in the whole?"

Gather all the cards together into the whole row to find the total, then draw the bar to match.

"Three and two make five. Five guitars altogether — that is the whole."

Now try a missing-part story. Place 8 bee cards in the whole row, then move 5 of them into one part of the parts row.

"Eight is the whole. Five is one part — what goes in the other part?"

Move the remaining cards into the second part to find the missing part.

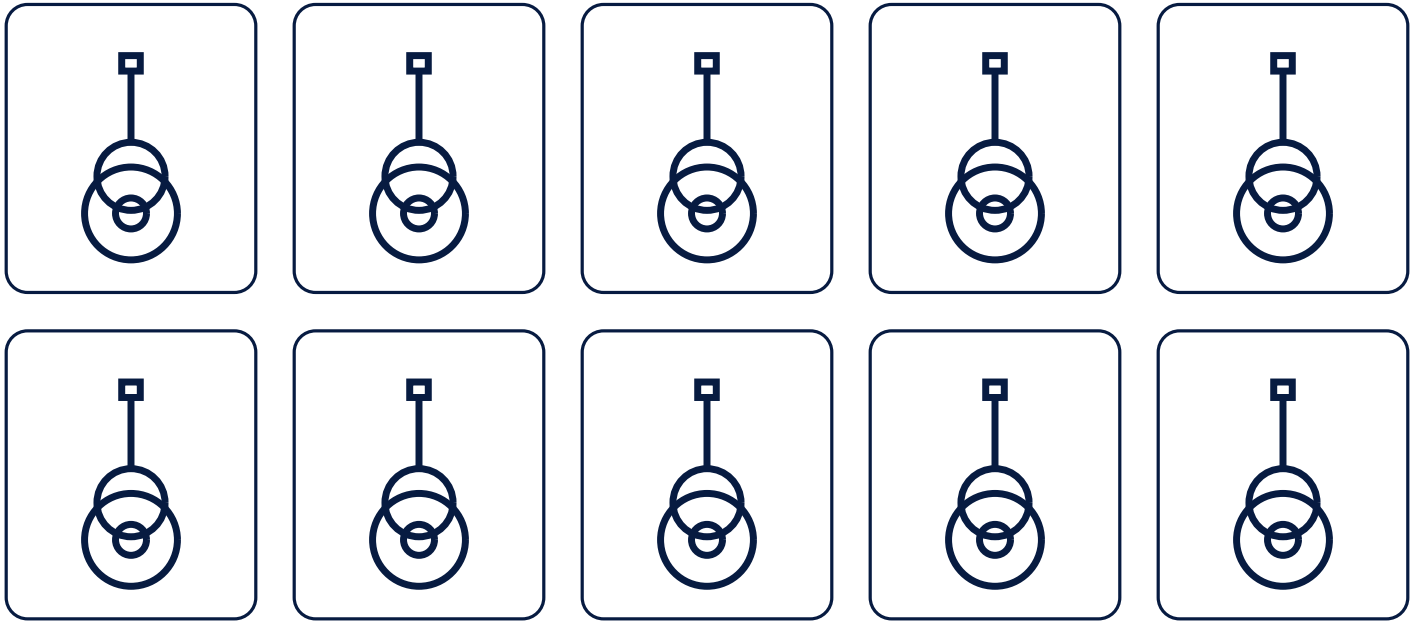
"Three bees are in the second part. Five and three make eight."

Show a common mistake with cat cards — mixing up which number is the whole. Check it: can a part ever be bigger than the whole?

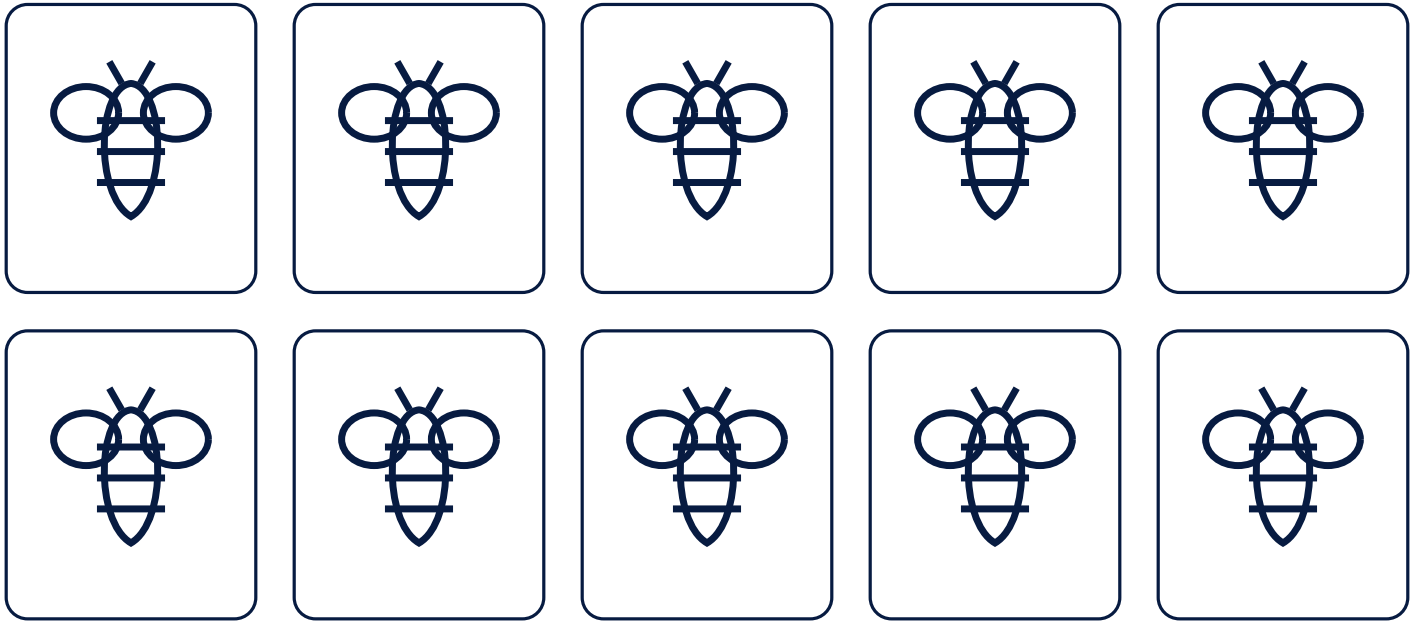
"I put four cat cards as a part and two cat cards as the whole. But four is bigger than two — can a part be bigger than the whole? That tells us they are the wrong way round."

Bar model mat

Scenario cards — Guitars



Scenario cards — Bees



Scenario cards — Cats

