

Tens frame activities



1 Place the counters — students fill the frame

Say a number from 6 to 10. Students place that many counters in their tens frame, filling the first row from the left before starting the second.

"Put seven counters in your frame. Fill the first row first."

"How many in the first row? Five. How many in the second? Two. Five and two — seven."

"Both rows are full. How many? Ten. The frame is completely full."

Watch for students who fill cells randomly.

"Fill the first row completely before you start the second row. Why do we do it this way?"

2 Flash the frame — read without counting

Show a partly filled tens frame for 1 to 2 seconds, then cover it. Students say how many were filled. Begin with a full first row (6 to 10).

"Ready — look. How many were filled? How did you know?"

"Did you see the five first? Then how many more?"

Mix full first rows (6 to 10) with partial first rows (1 to 5) without announcing which is coming.

3 Five-plus reading — name the parts

Show a tens frame. Students name the quantity as "five and __" before giving the total.

"Tell me what you see. Say 'five and...' before you give the total."

Show frames for 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 — five and one through five and five.

"If the second row has four filled, how many are empty? How far is this number from ten?"

4 Non-example: random filling

Show a tens frame with 7 counters placed randomly, not left to right, with the first row not completed first.

"How many counters? Is the frame right?"

"There are seven counters here — but something is wrong with how they are placed. What is the problem?"

"Can you see the five instantly in this frame? Why not? What does filling the first row first give you?"

Resource tens frames



