

Counting on from the largest value introduction



1 Start at the bigger number, count on the smaller

Put out two groups — six and two. Count them all: one, two... eight. Then count on: start at six — seven, eight. Same answer, far fewer steps.

“Count them all: one, two... eight. Or start at six: seven, eight. Which was faster?”

Count the steps, not the start — six is where you begin, it is not a count; the first count is seven.

“Six is where we start — it is not a count. The first count is seven.”

Show the two numbers with number cards and put the bigger one first — for two plus nine, lead with the nine card and count on two. The number of counts is the smaller addend.

“Which number card is bigger? Put it first. Start there and count on the smaller — how many counts? The smaller addend.”

Use the finger strategy — say the starting number, then raise one finger per count until you have raised the smaller addend; where you land is the total.

“Seven plus three: start at seven — eight, nine, ten, raising a finger each time. Three fingers. Ten.”

Put it together with the counters — the bigger number card names where you start; bring the smaller group of counters in one at a time, counting on. Where you land is the total.

“Start at the bigger number, then bring in the small group one counter at a time — nine, ten, eleven. Where did we land?”

Counting on from the largest — demonstration fact cards

Print on A4 (enlarge to A3). Hold up a card. Order the two numbers so the bigger is first, then count on the smaller with counters or fingers — counting the steps, not the start.



$$6 + 2$$

$$7 + 3$$

$$8 + 2$$

$$5 + 3$$

$$9 + 1$$

$$4 + 3$$

$$6 + 3$$

$$2 + 9$$

$$1 + 8$$

$$3 + 7$$

$$5 + 2$$

$$2 + 6$$