

Identifying the pattern introduction

1 Work backwards from the sequence to find the rule that made it

Show a sequence already laid out: 10, 20, 30. Ask what rule could have made this, before revealing anything.

"Here is a pattern: ten, twenty, thirty. What rule do you think made this?"

Confirm it — this is a familiar rule from before, skip counting by ten.

"That is skip counting by ten. You worked it out just from looking at the numbers."

Show a trickier sequence: 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13. Ask for the rule.

"Three, five, seven, nine, eleven, thirteen. What is the rule this time?"

Once the rule is found, ask how they figured it out — draw out the strategy of checking the jump between pairs.

"How did you work that out? What did you check between each pair of numbers?"

Show an even trickier sequence: 33, 38, 43, 48, 53. Ask for the rule again, applying the same strategy.

"Thirty-three, thirty-eight, forty-three, forty-eight, fifty-three. Check the jump between each pair. What is the rule?"

Name the strategy explicitly: check the jump between one number and the next — if it stays the same, that jump is the rule.

"The way to find the rule is to check the jump between one number and the next. If that jump stays the same all the way along, that jump is the rule."

Show a common mistake: naming a rule after checking only the first pair, without checking it holds for the rest. Check it against every pair, not just the first.

"Someone said the rule was 'add ten' after just looking at ten and twenty. But does that same jump work for the rest of the sequence too? Always check more than one pair before deciding."

Number chart mat – demonstration

Use real counters in a different colour for each starting number, to mark and compare sequences on this mat.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	
50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	
60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	
70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	
80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	
90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	
100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	
110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	
										120