

Skip counting by tens introduction

1 Discover the rule, and what pattern it creates

Follow a rule together on the chart mat: start at 0, and place a counter on every tenth number as you count on. Count one by one, but only place a counter on the tenth, twentieth, thirtieth.

"We are going to follow a rule. Start at zero, and mark every tenth number as we count. Ready? Let's count."

Once a few are marked — 0, 10, 20, 30 — name what this is called.

"Zero, ten, twenty, thirty. We just skipped over all the numbers in between. This is called skip counting."

Follow the same rule on the chart mat starting somewhere different this time — 3, using a different coloured counter. Place counters on every tenth number from there: 3, 13, 23, 33.

"Let's follow the same rule, but start somewhere different — three. Mark every tenth number from here."

Pause before revealing anything. Ask what pattern this creates and let real discussion happen.

"Look at the counters on the mat — three, thirteen, twenty-three, thirty-three. What do you notice? Talk to your partner about what stays the same and what changes."

Reveal and confirm the pattern explicitly, in the class's own words if possible.

"The pattern is this: the ones number always stays the same, and the tens number goes up by one, every time."

Test whether the pattern really is a rule by trying a third starting point on the mat, in a third colour — 7.

"Let's check the pattern holds with another number. Start at seven and mark every tenth number. Does the same pattern happen?"

Show a common mistake: someone claims the tens number goes up by ten each time, not one. Check it against the real numbers.

"Someone said the tens number goes up by ten each time. Let's check — look at just the tens digit in thirteen, then twenty-three. Did it go up by ten, or by one?"

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	
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