

Skip counting by fives introduction

1 A trickier pattern — two numbers taking turns

Follow the rule on the chart mat: start at 0, and place a counter on every fifth number.

"Follow the rule with me. Start at zero, mark every fifth number: zero, five, ten, fifteen, twenty."

Follow the same rule on the mat starting at 1 instead, using a different coloured counter: 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26.

"Now start at one and mark every fifth number: one, six, eleven, sixteen, twenty-one, twenty-six."

Pause before revealing anything. Ask what pattern this makes — warn that it is trickier than tens.

"Look closely at the ones digit each time — one, six, one, six. What do you notice? This pattern is a bit trickier than last time."

Reveal the two-part pattern: two numbers alternate in the ones place, and the tens digit only changes every second jump.

"There are two numbers taking turns in the ones place — one, then six, then one, then six. And the tens number only changes every second jump, not every jump."

Test the pattern on the mat with a third starting point, in a third colour — 2 — to see if the same kind of alternating still happens.

"Let's check with a different start — two. Two, seven, twelve, seventeen. Do we see the same kind of alternating pattern?"

Show a common mistake: assuming the tens digit changes every single jump, the way it did with tens. Check it against the real numbers.

"Someone said the tens number changes every single jump, like it did with tens. Let's check — does it, or does it only change every second jump here?"

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