

1

Patterns that are already around us

Walk the class around the room and stop at something that repeats, such as a row of tiles, the window panes, the bricks outside or the stripes on a jumper. Say the repeating part out loud while pointing at each piece of it, then start again at the next repeat so students hear where one ends and the next begins.

"White, grey, white, grey. Now it starts again. White, grey."

"What happens again and again here?"

The guide at the back lists the kinds of repeat worth stopping at, including the one students miss most often, which is the same thing over and over such as a row of identical wall panels. Colour and shape are the two students reach for first, so make a point of stopping at one that repeats by size, by which way something faces, or by texture. Stop at a second place that does not repeat, such as a shelf of different books, so students hear the difference between a line of things and a pattern.

2

Saying what repeats

Hold up a pattern strip from the back of this document and run your finger along it while naming each shape. Then go back to the start and name only the part that repeats, sweeping your hand across that piece each time it comes around.

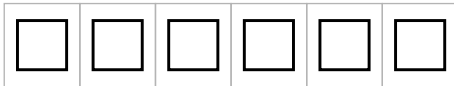
"Black circle, white circle, black circle, white circle."

"This is the part that repeats. Black circle, white circle."

"Say it with me as I point."

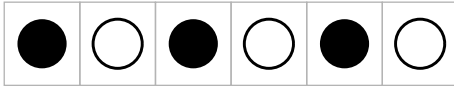
Give every student a strip and have the whole class say the repeating part together while touching it. Change strips and say it again so the words are attached to the strip in front of them rather than to one example.

Patterns to look for around the room



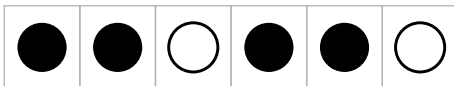
The same thing over and over

Wall panels, floor tiles, fence posts, the same window along a wall.



Two things taking turns

Light and dark bricks, a chair then a gap, stripes on a jumper.



Two of one, then one of another

Two short railings then a tall one, two small tiles then a large one.



Three things in a group

Three tiles repeating along a border, beads on a curtain tie.



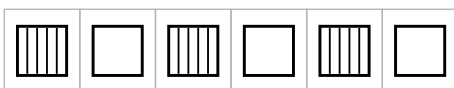
Size, not colour

A big pane then a small pane, a tall post then a short one.



Which way it faces

Arrows on a sign, leaves up a stem, chairs facing in then out.



Lines and texture

Ridges then smooth on a roof, brick then mortar, the weave of a mat. Harder to see than colour, and worth naming out loud when you find one.

Pattern strips

