

Forward and back activities



1 Forward then back — same amount

Students place a counter on their own track. They move it forward some spaces, then back the same number, and say where they land. Repeat from different starts.

“Start here. Move forward two — where are you? Move back two — where are you?”

“We ended up back at the start. Why?”

2 Predict the position

Before moving, ask students where the counter will land after an equal forward-and-back. Then contrast with an unequal pair.

“Before I move — where will it end up? Forward three, then back three.”

“How did you know it would come back to the start?”

3 Give the back instruction

Move a counter forward from the start — say forward three. Students say the one move that brings it back. Then give a multi-step sequence and ask for the single move home.

“I moved forward three. What one move brings us back to the start?”

“Follow: forward two, forward one, back one. What one move gets you home?”

4 Non-example: forward and back different amounts

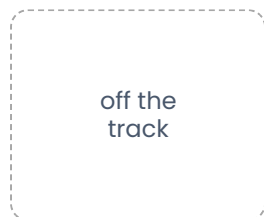
Start at position one. Move forward three, then back two. Ask whether we are back at the start, and what the gap means.

“We went forward three and back two — are we back at the start? Why not?”

“What is different about going forward three and back three?”

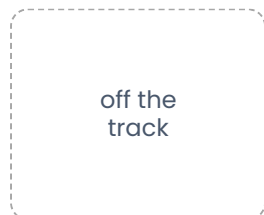
Number track — 1 to 5

Print on A4 landscape. Laminate and cut into strips. Place a counter on any position, then move it forward or back the stated number of spaces.



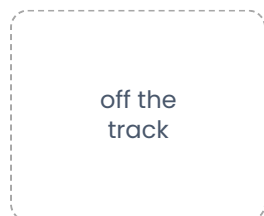
1	2	3	4	5
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cut here



1	2	3	4	5
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cut here



1	2	3	4	5
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cut here