Tens and ones

Why do the numbers from 10 to 99 have two digits?

WORDS TO KNOW

Ten: ten ones counted as one thing.

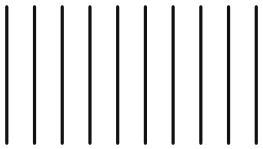
Ones: single things that are not in a ten.

Digit: one of the marks 0 to 9.

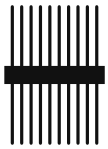
KEY IDEAS

1. Ten ones make one ten

Tie ten sticks together. Now you can count them as one ten. You did not add or take away a stick.



10 ones

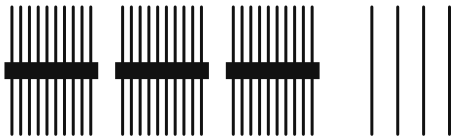


1 ten

> 10 ones make 1 ten.
>
> A ten holds exactly 10, not 9 and not 11.

2. In a two-digit number, the left digit counts tens

Tie a pile into tens. Write how many tens. Then write how many loose ones.



3 tens

4 ones

3

4

> Tens go on the left. Ones go on the right.
>
> The right digit is never more than 9.

WATCH OUT

- **Writing a teen number backward.** Most teen words say the ones first. Write 1 first.
- **Leaving out the 0.** No loose ones? Write 0 on the right.
- **Writing 10 or more loose ones.** Tie ten loose ones into one more ten first.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Ava has 7 bundles of ten and 10 loose sticks. How many?

1. Ten loose sticks make one more ten. Tie them into a bundle.
2. Now there are 8 tens and 0 ones. That is 80.

Answer: 80 sticks. **Check:** Count 10, 20, and on to 70, then 71 to 80.

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