Skip counting by twos, fives, threes and fours

Things that come in pairs or rows are quick to count. Say only the last number of each group.

WORDS TO KNOW

Skip count: say only the number at the end of each group.

Pair: a group of two, like two boots.

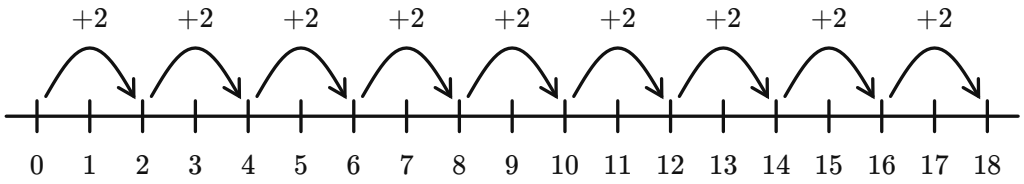
Ones digit: the last digit of a number, like the 7 in 47.

KEY IDEAS

1. Say one number for each pair

Point at one pair and say "two." Point at the next pair and say "four." Each number is two more than the one before. Each jump on the line is one pair.

> Point at one group for each number you say. The last number tells how many in all.



2. The ones digit makes a pattern

Count by twos from 0. The ones digits go 2, 4, 6, 8, 0, then start again. Start at 1 instead, and they go 1, 3, 5, 7, 9.

> Your starting ones digit tells which numbers you can land on.

3. Fives, threes and fours work the same way

For rows of five, start at 0 and jump 5 each time. The ones digits take turns, 5 then 0. For groups of three or four, jump 3 or 4.

> Each jump is the size of one group.

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WATCH OUT

- **Take care when you pass a ten.** Two more than 19 is 21. Say 20 in your head, then 21.
- **Start at 0 to find a total.** Then the last number is how many in all.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. There are 6 pairs of socks. How many socks are there?

1. Each pair is two socks, so count by twos.
2. Point at each pair in turn: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12.
3. You said 6 numbers, one for each pair.

Answer: 12 socks. **Check:** count the socks one by one. You get 12 again.

Example 2. Count back by twos from 11. Say the next four numbers.

1. Counting back means 2 less each time.
2. Two less than 11 is 9. You pass back over 10.
3. Keep going: 7, 5, 3.

Answer: 9, 7, 5, 3.

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