The last word tells how many

When you finish counting, what does the last word tell you?

WORDS TO KNOW

How many: the number of things in the whole group.

Move: change where things are, but add none and take none away.

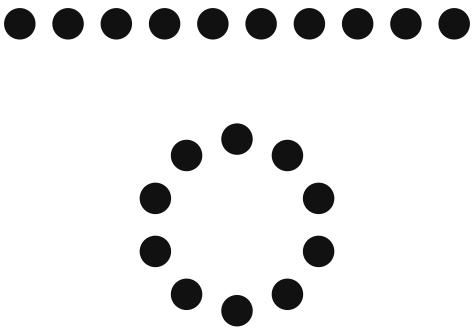
KEY IDEAS

1. The last word is all of them

The last word you say is not the name of one thing. It tells how many in the whole group. Sweep your hand around all of them.

> The last word you say tells how many.

2. Moving things does not change how many



Push a line of things into a ring or a pile. There are still just as many. Start with any one, and you get the same number.

> Only adding or taking away changes how many.

WATCH OUT

- **Pointing at one thing for the number.** The number is for the whole group, not the last thing.
- **A longer line is not always more.** Things spread out can look like more. Count to check.

WORKED EXAMPLES

> **Example 1. You count 9 crayons in a line. Then you push them into a pile. How many now?**
>
> 1. You said "nine" last. So there were 9 crayons.
> 2. You only moved them. You added none and took none away.
>
> **Answer:** still 9 crayons. You do not need to count again.

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