MATHEMATICS · KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

Counting forward and backward

Difficulty level: Easy

Mathematics: Kindergarten to Grade 3

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Overview of the concept

This is how you count up or down in order. You count forward to the days until a birthday, and you count back to work out the change you are owed at a shop. Counting back is also how you check a subtraction, since counting back from the bigger number should land you on the smaller one. It sounds simple, but it is the skill every other bit of arithmetic is built on.

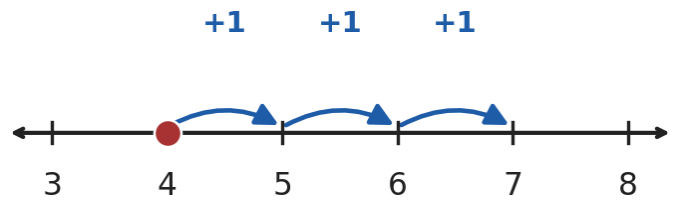


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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Count forward from 4. What are the next three numbers?



SOLUTION

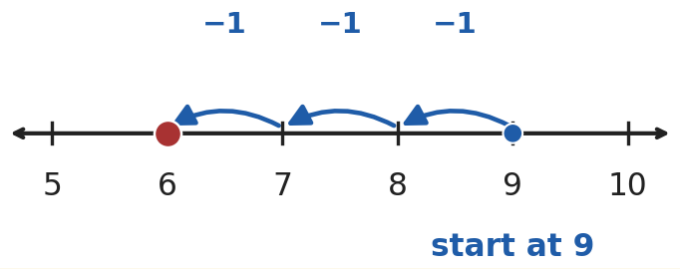
Add 1 each time: 4 + 1 = 5

5 + 1 = 6, then 6 + 1 = 7

So the next three numbers are 5, 6, 7

EXAMPLE 2

Q Count backward from 9. What are the next three numbers?



SOLUTION

Take away 1 each time: 9 – 1 = 8

8 – 1 = 7, then 7 – 1 = 6

So the next three numbers are 8, 7, 6

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Practice questions

1 Count forward from 6. What are the next three numbers?

- **A** 6, 7, 8
- **B** 7, 8, 10
- **C** 7, 8, 9
- **D** 8, 9, 10

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2 Count backward from 10. What are the next three numbers?

- **A** 10, 9, 8
- **B** 9, 8, 7
- **C** 9, 8, 6
- **D** 8, 7, 6

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3 **Count forward from 12 for four steps. What number do you land on?**

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4 **Count backward from 18 for four steps. What number do you land on?**

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5 **Count forward from 6 to 9. How many steps did you take?**

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6 **Count backward from 10 to 7. How many steps did you take?**

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7 **What comes after 11 when counting forward?**

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8 **What comes before 10 when counting backward?**

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9 **What number comes between 29 and 31?**

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10 **Count backward from 20. What is the fifth number you say, counting 20 as the first?**

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ANSWER KEY

1. 7, 8, 9

2. 9, 8, 7

3. 16

4. 14

5. 3

6. 3

7. 12

8. 9

9. 30

10. 16

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