MATHEMATICS · KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

Skip counting by 3s and 4s

Difficulty level: Easy

Mathematics: Kindergarten to Grade 3

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Overview of the concept

This is how you count groups quickly, like counting chairs in rows of three or legs on tables in sets of four, and it is the first step toward knowing your times tables. Counting one by one is slow when things come in groups, but skip counting jumps straight from group to group. That jump is exactly what multiplication does, so it builds the times tables in your head before you ever memorise them. You use it when you count money in coins, count items in packs, or count anything that comes in equal sets.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Skip count by 3s, starting at 0, up to 15.

SOLUTION

This is a skip counting question, so start with the one rule to remember: each number is the last number plus the step, and the step stays the same the whole way.

Start at 0. Add 3 to get 3, add 3 again to get 6, then 9, then 12, then 15.

So the count is 3, 6, 9, 12, 15.



EXAMPLE 2

Q Skip count backwards by 4s, starting at 24, down to 0.

SOLUTION

This is a counting backwards question, so the rule is the same, but you take the step away each time instead of adding it.

Start at 24. Take away 4 to get 20, take away 4 again to get 16, then 12, then 8, then 4, then 0.

So the count is 24, 20, 16, 12, 8, 4, 0.



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Practice questions

1 Fill in the missing numbers: 6, 9, __, 15, __, 21

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2 Fill in the missing numbers: 4, 8, 12, __, 20, __.

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3 What number comes after 27 when you count by 3s?

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4 Count backwards by 4s from 40: 40, 36, 32, __.

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5 Tricycles have 3 wheels. Skip count by 3s to find how many wheels 6 tricycles have.

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6 Chairs have 4 legs. Skip count by 4s to find how many legs 7 chairs have.

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7 Count by 3s from 0. Will you ever say 10?

A Yes

B No

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8 Count by 4s starting at 4. What is the 5th number?

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9 Count backwards by 3s from 30: 30, 27, 24, __.

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10 **What number comes after 36 when you count by 4s?**

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ANSWER KEY

1. 12, 18

2. 16, 24

3. 30

4. 28

5. 18 wheels

6. 28 legs

7. No

8. 20

9. 21

10. 40

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