

"Don't you know about numbers?"
"I don't think they're very important,"
snapped Milo.

"NOT IMPORTANT!" roared the Do-
decahedron. "Could you have tea for
two without the two — or three blind
mice without the three? Would there
be four corners of the earth if there
weren't a four? And how would you
sail the seven seas without a seven?"
"All I meant was—" began Milo, but
the Dodecahedron, carried right on.

"If you had high hopes, how would you
know how high they were? And did
you know that narrow escapes come in
all different widths? Would you travel
the whole wide world without ever
knowing how wide it was? And how
could you do anything at long last
without knowing how long the last
was?



Why, numbers
are the most
beautiful and
valuable
things in the
world.

Just follow me and I'll show you."

"The Phantom Tollbooth" by Norton Juster

- Useful Points of Reference -

www.mymaths.com

www.waldomaths.co.uk

www.emaths.co.uk

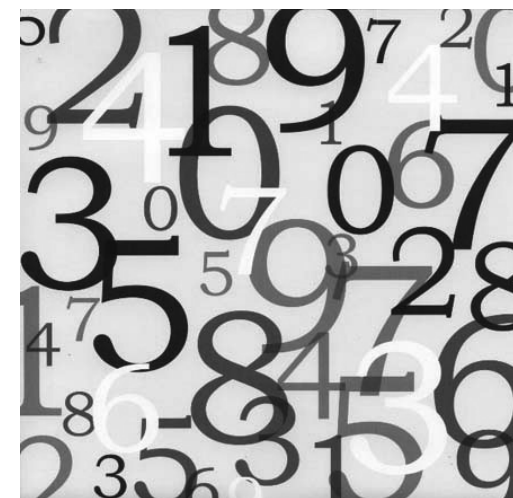
www.supermathsworld.com

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Know your numbers!



If you are looking for some help with your son's Maths, it might be useful to think about all the ways we use number in our day-to-day life. Try the following ideas to encourage more success with numeracy...

1. It's a question of time.

How long is the film? When does the train arrive and depart? Can we get to town and back before it is too late? Use online timetables and a bit of subtraction to be on top of your schedules.

2. Sport meets maths.

Lots of games require keeping score. League tables often take in to account things like goal difference. Different points are awarded for different skills. How about tracking a team in their league? Or following a knock-out competition through each of the stages? Often you can download wall charts for the big events like The World Cup.

3. Shopping and saving.

Are baked beans better value in the four-pack or when they are sold individually? What about BOGOF offers? Or 2 for 3 deals? Set a challenge to see who can make the most savings in the supermarket. Is it enough for a small reward?

4. Travel abroad.

If you go on holiday and need to convert prices, try working out a chart of how much the local currency is worth for a certain number of pounds. Is that t-shirt really a bargain or not?

5. Maps and measures.

Measurements come in all sorts of shapes, sizes and lengths. From DIY planning, to map reading and the weather! Here you can support differences in the units used to measure and work out changes, make a shopping list or plan a journey.

6. Everyday numbers.

Get your son to work out the cost of the take away; the price of tickets to an event; the discount if they bought an item in the sale.

7. Number puzzles.

Most papers have sudoku, kakuro and other number puzzles. Often rated from beginner, through to more devilishly tricky levels, they require logic, patience and perseverance — all good qualities in problem solving.

8. Learn your times tables.

They really are something you need to know for quick calculations. The time spent working each one out is time wasted—especially in mental maths tests or non-calculator papers. If there is one number skill to encourage, then it's learning these by heart—**and quickly.**