

YLs – A1 - Introducing Numbers

Aims: To revise counting from 1 – 5
To recognise pictures of numbers

Level/age: A1 – 4/6 years.

Length of lesson: 45 mins

Language: Numbers 1- 5

Materials: Flashcards with numbers 1 – 5 on one side and
Pictures of 1 – 5 cats on the reverse side.

Preparation: Make/download the flashcards

Procedure:

Warmer: Sing usual Hello song to tune of *Frere Jacques*

*Hello, hello; hello, hello
How are you? How are you?
Very well, thank you. Very well, thank you.
How are you? How are you?*

1. Show flashcard with cat. Ask class *how many cats?* (One). Ask one child same question and get the answer 'one'. Repeat with two or three more children. Then ask whole class again. Turn cat card over and show the number 1. Stick on board or wall.
2. Repeat with flashcard with two cats. Ask *how many cats?* (Two). Repeat question with individual children, turn card over and show the number 2. Stick on board or wall.
3. Repeat with three cats. Then point to numbers you have stuck on board/wall. *What number is this?* (One). Point to no 2 – is this number 1? (No!). *What number is it?* (Two). Ask individual children and then repeat with 3. T points to number, makes deliberate mistake, children correct. Ask individual children to come and point to numbers if they feel confident enough. Practise pronunciation of three. Tell children to put finger just in front of their mouth (demonstrate). Make *thhh* sound with tongue touching finger, then say three, choral repetition.
4. Repeat with four and five cats, so you now have numbers 1-5 stuck on board/wall.
5. Introduce 'North Wind Blows' game. Teacher gives out the small number cards – 1 or 2 per child, depending on how many s/he has made. T chants:

*The north wind blows, the north wind blows
What number does it blow?
It blows number 4!*

Children who have the number 4 hold the number up. Repeat with random numbers. When you have done this 3/4 times, the children will start to join in the rhyme. When they do this, nominate one child each time to say the number instead of you.

6. T points to numbers on board again in random order. Then count as a group from 1-5.
7. T teaches '5 little birds sitting on a wall' chant.

*5 little birds sitting on a wall
5 little birds sitting on a wall
1 bird says "Cheep, cheep!
I must go."*

*4 little birds sitting on a wall, etc
3 little birds sitting on a wall, etc
2 little birds sitting on a wall, etc*

*1 little bird sitting on a wall
1 little bird sitting on a wall
The little bird says "Cheep, cheep,
Please come back!"*

Put 5 chairs in front of class and choose five children to be the birds. Child 1 says Cheep, cheep and flies back to his/her place. Repeat till just one child is sitting on the "wall". When s/he says come back, the other four birds fly back to their places on the wall. Change the children and repeat.

NB. Make sure you choose a confident child for the last little bird, as it may be overwhelming for one child to be left on their own.

8. Count to five again, quietly, slowly, loudly, clapping hands at same time, happily, sadly, whispering, etc. (T mimes/demonstrates). Say "goodbye", that is the end of the lesson.

Alternative/follow-up. Teach 6-10 in the same way with 5/6 year olds. Repeat the North Wind game, and teach 10 little aeroplanes, see: <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/songs/ten-little-aeroplanes>
You will also find some simple number flashcards to print out on this page.

For the 4/5 year olds teach 5 Little Ducks, see: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-five-little-ducks-went-swimming-one-day/z43xwty>

You can also close the lesson with this song, also to the tune of *Frere Jacques*.

*Goodbye, goodbye: goodbye, goodbye,
That's the end; that's the end,
See you tomorrow; see you tomorrow,
It's time to go; it's time to go.*

And remember numbers bingo for all ages and levels.

Contributed by Effie Yu, Los Angeles
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