



Key Instant Recall Facts

Year 1 – Summer 1

I can count forwards and backwards in steps of 2, 5 and 10.

In Year 1, children begin learning to count in 2s, 5s and 10s. This is more than just a counting skill—it's a key building block for their future maths learning.

Builds Strong Number Understanding

Counting in steps helps children see patterns in numbers. For example:

- Counting in 2s shows even numbers (2, 4, 6, 8...)
- Counting in 5s and 10s helps them notice repeated patterns.

Supports Early Multiplication

Counting in groups is the first step towards multiplication.

When children count in 2s, they are learning “2 + 2 + 2...” which later becomes: 3 groups of 2 = 6.

This makes learning times tables much easier in later years.

Helps with Real-Life Maths

These counting skills are used in everyday situations:

- Counting money (especially 5p and 10p coins)
- Telling the time (counting in 5s on a clock)
- Grouping objects quickly and accurately

Improves Speed and Efficiency

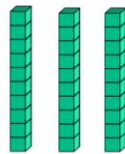
Instead of counting one by one, children learn to count larger amounts more quickly.

This helps them solve problems faster and with more confidence.

Develops Problem-Solving Skills

Counting in steps encourages children to think about numbers

- Recognising patterns
- Making predictions



Top Tips

Everyday Object Activities

- **Toy Pairs:** Count toys in pairs (2s). “Can you make groups of 2 cars?”
- **Snack Counting:** Use grapes, crackers, or cereal to count in 2s, 5s, or 10s.
- **Coin Counting:** Count 5p and 10p coins to make amounts.

Game-Based Activities

- **Dice Counting:** Roll a die and count in steps. Example: roll 2 → count in 2s to 20.
- **Number Line Hop:** Make a number line on the floor. Jump in 2s, 5s, or 10s.
- **Memory Match:** Make cards with numbers or objects in groups. Match pairs that make 10, 20, etc.

Physical / Active Activities

- **Clap & Count:** Clap hands in 2s, 5s, or 10s while chanting numbers.
- **Jumping Counting:** Jump forward in steps of 2, 5, or 10 along a path or stairs.
- **Finger Counting:** Show numbers on fingers and count in 2s or 5s.

Creative / Visual Activities

- **Draw & Colour:** Draw 10 circles or boxes (ten frames) and colour in 2, 5, or 10 at a time.
- **Pattern Art:** Make bead bracelets or necklaces in repeating patterns of 2, 5, or 10 beads.
- **Sticker Charts:** Stick 2, 5, or 10 stickers at a time to reach a total.

App or Online Activities

- Hit the Button – quick counting games
- Numberblocks World – visual and interactive counting

Key Vocabulary

count
forwards/backwards
pattern sequence
steps groups repeated
total more/less

Key Questions

- “Can you count in 2s / 5s / 10s with me?”
- “What number comes next if we count in 2s / 5s / 10s?”
- “Can you count backwards in 5s / 10s from 50?”
- “What pattern do you notice when we count in 2s / 5s / 10s?”
- “Can you make equal groups of 2 / 5 / 10 using your toys?”
- “If we have 3 lots of 5, how many is that altogether?”
- “How many tens are there in 50?”
- “If we add 5 more, what will the total be?”
- “If we take away 2, what number is left?”
- “Can you find another way to count to 20?”