



Skip Count with Calculators



Objective To demonstrate how to skip count on a calculator.

Key Concepts and Skills

- Use calculators to skip count by 2s, 5s, and 10s. [Number and Numeration Goal 1]
- Use the symbols + and -. [Patterns, Functions, and Algebra Goal 2]

Terms to Use skip counting, plus, equals, pattern, repeat

Materials Home Link Master (*Math Masters*, p. 47); calculators; large signs or transparencies displaying [ON/C] or [AC], [+], and [=]

- Whole Group
- Small Group
- Partners
- Center

Planning Tip You may want to use the large display signs for the [+], [=], and clear keys that you made for Activities 4-7 and 5-5 to demonstrate the key sequences. Each child or pair of children should have a calculator for this activity, so you may need to conduct it with small groups.

A Core Activities

► Skip Counting with Calculators

Remind children that skip counting involves counting by numbers other than 1, such as counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s. Practice some choral skip counting. Then tell children they can use their calculators to skip count. Explain and demonstrate one way (the long way) to count by 2s on their calculators:

1. Press **ON/C** or **AC** to clear the calculator.
2. Press **2** **+** **2** **=**; **+** **2** **=**; **+** **2** **=**; ... Continue until you reach 20.

Ask and discuss: *Why do you think this makes the calculator skip count by 2s?* Next, tell children there is a faster way to skip count on a calculator. Explain that most calculators have a key that tells the calculator to repeat a particular step, such as adding 2 (or 5, or 10). Demonstrate as you explain how to set the repeat function to count by 2s:

NOTE Have children count aloud each time they skip count on the calculators.

1. Press ON/C or AC to clear the calculator.
2. Press $\text{2} \text{+} \text{=}$ (for TI-108 or similar calculator models) or $\text{2} \text{+} \text{+} \text{=}$ (for Casio SL-450 or similar calculator models).
3. Keep pressing = to count to 40 (or higher) by 2s.

Ask for suggestions for counting by 5s on the calculator. When children are ready, have them press the clear key, substitute 5 for 2 in the above sequence, and count to 115 (or higher) by 5s on the calculator and aloud. Next, remind children to clear their calculators, then have them count to 110 (or higher) by 10s.



Home Link 6•14 (Math Masters, p. 47)

Children count by 2s, 5s, and 10s at home.

▶ Making Coin Patterns (Revisit Activity 5•2, p. 238)

Use coins to create patterns for children to describe and extend (for example, 2 pennies, 2 nickels; 2 pennies, 2 nickels; ...). You can use the heads and tails sides of the coins to make more subtle patterns (heads, heads, tails; heads, heads, tails; ...).

B Teaching Options

ENRICHMENT

▶ Solving Problems Using Skip Counting

Read *The King's Commissioners* by Aileen Friedman (Scholastic, 1995) and discuss how skip counting is used to solve the king's problem.

TECHNOLOGY

▶ Skip Counting by Other Numbers

Children can figure out how to use a calculator to skip count by other numbers.

NOTE For some calculators, each time = is pressed, the last operation is repeated. For other calculators, you must press + twice to set the repeat function, then press = to repeat the operation. Check how your calculator's repeat function works before conducting the activity.

NOTE To support English **ELL** language learners, explain the terms *heads* and *tails* and show examples using each type of coin.

Counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s

Example: Counting by twos (like dice) is a fun counting game. Ask your child to count by twos, fives, and tens. Use the skip counting cards to help your child practice skip counting.

Counting by 2s
Look for things around your house that come in pairs (socks, shoes, eyes, and mittens). You can count the pairs by 2s.

Counting by 5s
Count the fingers in your family by 1s. Now count them by 5s. Count the nickels in your money jar by 5s, too.

Counting by 10s
You've had lots of practice counting fingers by 10s. Now count toes. Try to count dimes by 10s, too.

Math Masters, p. 47