

National Numeracy Day

Numbers and Rap



Harry Baker

Poet and mathematician
National Numeracy Ambassador

“ I love maths! I know not everyone agrees with me on this one. But maths doesn't have to be scary. And to prove it, this National Numeracy Day, I have written a special Numeracy Day Rap and put together some number rap activities to help everyone feel differently about maths. ”

Everyone can have fun watching Harry perform his rap in the accompanying video or perform it themselves using the lyrics below.

Harry's Rap

Here we go - Okay - 18th May
Celebrating National Numeracy Day
We've come to chat with the Big Number Natter,
There are so many ways to play...

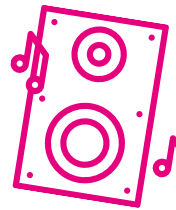
It could be cutting up a cake or playing your fave tunes
Keeping in time with your best dance moves
Getting the drinks in and splitting the bill
Every day's there's a new way to sharpen your skills

And still - people say "Math's isn't for me"
Like it's too hard to get past the difficulty
But even if initially you stick with it minimally,
Within minutes you begin to feel differently

You see - if you talk through the baby steps
Well then - maybe next it starts making sense
Need help with fractions? you've just got to ask
'Cause a problem shared is a problem halved

And the start is so often the shakiest bit
But part of the challenge is taking a risk
A mistake is a breakthrough if we gain from it
What better day to begin?

That's right, Okay, 18th May
Celebrating National Numeracy Day



Children 4+

Thinking about rhyming and maths

In his rap Harry rhymes 'addition' with 'magician'. What other maths rhymes can you think of? Can you think of rhymes for the words below? Maybe you can add some more maths words to try and rhyme - what about some numbers or shapes?

Maths words:

Rhymes with...

- **Add** _____
- **Divide** _____
- **Sum** _____
- **Money** _____
- **Time** _____
- _____





Children 7+

Rhyme and Rhythm

Let's write our own lines for a rap



The most important thing when writing a rap is the rhythm.

Start by clicking your fingers and clapping your hands in a steady beat: click - clap - click - clap. This makes 4 beats - or 1 'bar'.

Each line of our rap is 1 bar long. Our words for the rap should fit the beat, with the rhymes coming on the 4th beat of the bar. For example:

Start the beat with a click and a clap
Let's all write a number rap.

Click Clap Click Clap
Start the beat, with a click and a clap

Click Clap Click Clap
Let's all write a number rap

Using some of the rhyming words you already thought of can you write two lines that rhyme with each other and fit the beat? Remember each line should be 4 beats long.

My two lines (first draft):

Practise your lines out loud to make sure each one fits the rhythm: click-clap-click-clap.

If your rhyming words don't land on the clap, there are things you could try to make them fit:

- Rap more slowly or quickly on some of the words
- Take away some words or add some more
- Try using shorter or longer words instead

Make sure your rap still makes sense if you change the words!

When you're happy with your final two lines, write them here:

You could even write some more lines if you like.



Perform your rap

Practise a group rap performance.

Set the beat by all clicking and clapping in time together.

Then go round the group so that everyone raps the two lines they've written.

You could collectively write a final set of two lines together to give an epic ending!

