MYTH BUSTER

BARCLAYS | LifeSkills

National Numeracy
NUMBER CONFIDENCE WEEK

Here are some things you might hear people say about maths, but are they all true?

Talk with your classmates
Discuss each of the statements below and decide if you think each one is true or false. The answers are at the bottom.

1 "Some people are just born good at maths."

2 "None of my friends find maths hard like I do."

3 "Everyone uses maths every day."

4 "You don't need maths if you have a calculator or a phone."

5 "Men are better at maths than women."

6 "Anyone can get better at maths with practice."

What did you learn?

Which statement surprised you the most? Why?

Has this activity changed how you think about maths?

Answers

1. **FALSE**. Maths is a skill, not something you are born good at. Everyone can get better with practice.

2. **FALSE**. Lots of people find maths hard, even if they don't say so. But we can all get better with practice.

3. **TRUE**. We all use maths every day: shopping, cooking, travel, time – it's all maths!

4. **FALSE**. Devices can help us work things out, but you still need to know what to type in, and have a feel for if the answer looks right or not.

5. **FALSE**. Maths is a skill that you learn – it has nothing to do with your sex or gender, and everyone is capable of improving their maths skills.

6. **TRUE**. Everyone improves at a different speed and needs different support, and that's okay.