

National Numeracy Day

Numbers and Rap

With Harry Baker

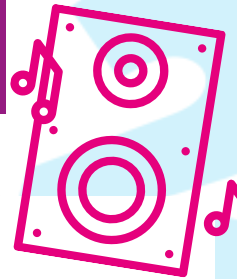


Harry Baker

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. You can share your own rap videos with me as #NationalNumeracyDay and tag me @harrybakerpoet.

Everyone can have fun watching Harry perform his rap in our celebrity ambassador lesson starter video or perform it themselves using the lyrics below.



Harry's Rap

I'm a - mathematician going mad for addition
Then abracadabra, subtract I am a magician
It could be pattern recognition or just pancakes in the kitchen
Wishing you were flipping with precision

Maybe some numbers leave our brains feeling number
Maybe some sums leave us craving the summer
Whatever your level is, you may end up surprised
I guess you never know unless you try

Sometimes it's hard, that is okay too
We build from one, til we're on - okay - two
When we start slow and we see things through
You'll be amazed at what we can do

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!