

Uno, dos, tres

Being able to say and understand the numbers is one of the key skills in a foreign language and it pays to get practising as soon as possible. The activity outlined below offers ample scope for practise, not simply by counting, but by hearing and saying numbers at random.

Getting ready

Print the numbers on page 2 on thin card and cut the grid first into columns 0-9.

You'll need a set of two columns for each pair or group, cut down into the individual digits and put in an envelope.

Getting them talking

1. To get familiar with the numbers 1 to 10, learners work together in pairs or small groups, each person in turn taking a digit and saying the number out loud. As they gain confidence, encourage them to speed up the process
2. Only numbers 1 – 10 feature in Stage 1 of Spanish Steps, but you may feel it will be useful to introduce numbers to 100 early on, so that students can more quickly handle prices, etc.

If so, when you've presented the higher numbers, learners can practise in pairs, one person taking a digit and saying the number, his/her partner taking a second digit, laying it down next to the first and saying the two two-digit numbers formed: for example 3, 8, 38, 83.

Later, the system can also be used by small groups to practise three and four figure numbers.

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9