

Why the Unit Must Match

Elaboration 4 · Using the same unit every time

ELABORATION FOCUS

Recognising that the same informal unit must be used every time, and that a smaller unit gives a larger number of units for the same distance.

LEARNING INTENTION I can use the same unit and explain my count.

Same unit

Measure it

Count it

Compare

Say why

1

Choose One Unit

Step 1: pick one unit. Step 2: use only that unit for the whole distance.

2

Step and Count

Step 3: place the unit end to end with no gaps. Step 4: count as you go.

3

Compare and Explain

Step 5: compare the two counts. Step 6: say why a smaller unit gives more.

MODEL · ONE DISTANCE, TWO DIFFERENT SHOES

The same mat is measured with a big shoe and a small shoe.

Both bars show the same mat

Big shoe



6 steps

Small shoe



9 steps

Same mat · smaller shoe = more steps

The mat is the same both times. The smaller shoe is shorter, so more fit along it.

TEACHER MODELLING ROUTINE I do → We do → You do

WATCH FOR

Swapping units part way, or leaving gaps between steps, so the count is not fair.

REMEMBER

Say it to students as: "Smaller unit, bigger number."

MATERIALS

Shoes of different sizes, floor mats, paper strips, blocks, recording sheets.