

Numbers Across Cultures

AC9M1N01_E4 See that all languages and cultures use numbers, but they can be written with different words and symbols — like kanji in Japanese and characters in Chinese.

Learning Intention: I can see that numbers are written with different words and symbols in different languages.

✓ Many languages ✓ Words & symbols ✓ Japanese kanji ✓ Chinese characters ✓ Special 10 & 100

1. Same Number, Many Symbols

3 = three = 三 (san / sǎn)

8 = eight = 八 (hachi / bā)

Japanese: ichi, ni, san, shi, go, roku ...

Chinese: yī, èr, sān, sì, wǔ, liù ...

2. Numbers in Many Cultures

One number, different words & symbols

Same number — different symbols

5 = 五 = five

10 = 十 = ten

100 = 百 = one hundred

漢字 kanji (Japanese) · 汉字 (Chinese)

3. Read the Symbols

Smallest

3 三

↓

5 五

↓

10 十

↓

100 百

Largest

⚠ Watch For

Same number, different symbol.

十 = 10 百 = 100

Symbols still mean the same amount.

Remember

十 = ten (Japanese & Chinese)

(十 = 10)

十三 = 13

百 = one hundred

(百 = 100)

Let's Talk

- How do you write 5 in another language?
- What numbers do you know in your home language?
- Why is it useful to know other symbols?

Materials & Models

- ✓ Number cards in many scripts
 - ✓ Kanji & character charts
 - ✓ Class languages poster
- Use real and on-screen tools.

For Teachers & Parents

- If you can, say the numbers in the child's home or local language too — it helps them connect maths to what they already know.
- This is just a nice extra, not something to stress about at this stage — the goal is simply to notice that numbers look different across languages.