Make a Ten Cards

Making a Ten

Mom is adding up a grocery receipt. "Nine for the chicken, six for the bread." She doesn't even pause. "Ten and five. Fifteen." She didn't count. She didn't stack anything.

That's what making a ten really is. Take a little from one number to fill the other up to a friendly landmark, and the hard part disappears.

How to play

1. Cut the cards apart. Show one and ask which number is nearly ten.
2. Have them say how much it needs, then take that much from the other number. Nine needs one, so the six gives it up and has five left.
3. Then add the easy way: ten and five. Fifteen.

Watch for

The most common slip is losing track of what's left. A child takes one from the six, makes the ten, and then forgets the six only has five left to give. If that happens, have them say the split out loud before they add: six is one and five.

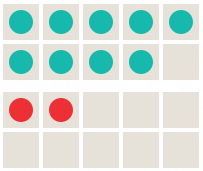
On the homework

Making a ten usually shows up as one number split into two small branches underneath the problem. Mom's receipt would be written as 9 + 6, with the six broken into 1 and 5. Those branches aren't decoration.

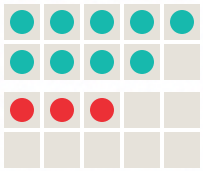
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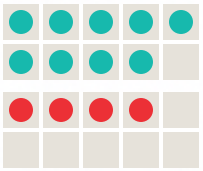
9 + 2



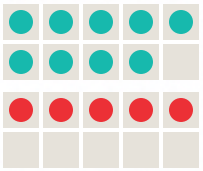
9 + 3



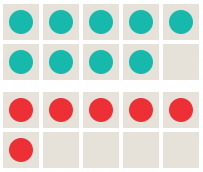
9 + 4



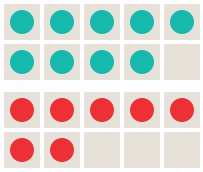
9 + 5



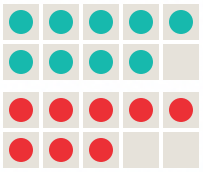
9 + 6



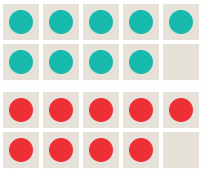
9 + 7



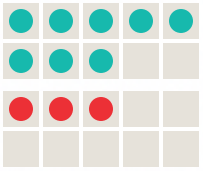
9 + 8



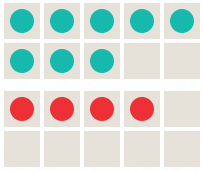
9 + 9



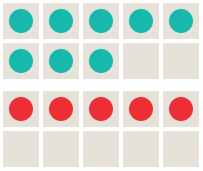
8 + 3



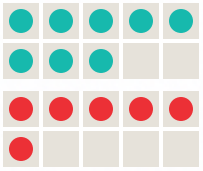
8 + 4



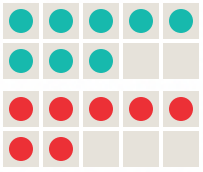
8 + 5



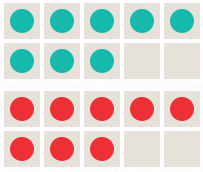
8 + 6



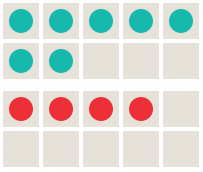
8 + 7



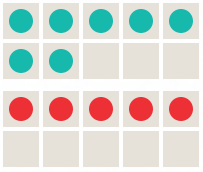
8 + 8



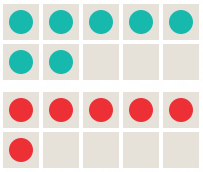
7 + 4



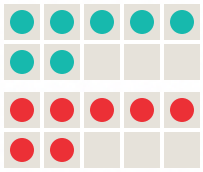
7 + 5



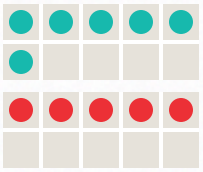
7 + 6



7 + 7



6 + 5



6 + 6

