MATHS FIELD GUIDE · GRADE 1

See small amounts and groups

OPENING PROBLEM

Can you see five without counting from one?

A 

B 

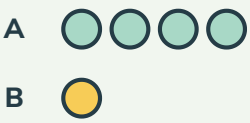
02 Organise a count so you can check it
03 Rules and worked cases
04 Spot the buttons
05 One whole, several splits
06 Check your reasoning

ILLUSTRATED PROBLEM SHEET

Organise a count so you can check it

The arrangement can help you count without changing how many objects there are.

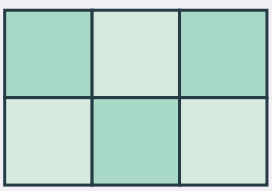
1



Can you see five without counting from one?

See four together and one more. Five.

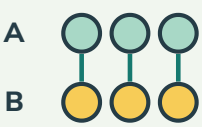
2



How many dots would fit if you put one in each cell?

Two rows of three give six. Counting three pairs gives the same six.

3



Pair the rows. How many pairs and how many counters?

Three pairs. Each pair uses two counters, so there are six counters.

4



Which is easier to count, all the shapes or just the squares?

There are three squares and three circles. Use those groups to check the total of six.

Four pairs
eight counters.

Four singles
four counters.

CHAPTER PROBLEM

I see four counters and one more. How many altogether?

Five. Four and one make five.

MATHS REFERENCE · GRADE 1

See small amounts and groups

Sometimes we see a small amount without counting each object.

Seeing two small groups can also help us find a total.

Four cases to recognise

Situation	What to do and why
Two dots above two dots	See two pairs: 2 + 2 = 4.
Five dots like a die	Four corner dots and one middle dot make 5.
A hidden corner on a four-dot card	Three show. One more completes the four.
Three dots spread farther apart	The group still has three. Match the dots one to one.

Read the model

See three at a glance

Look at this familiar three-dot shape.

Say three. Then touch the dots to check.

Dot pattern

How many dots?



Subitising - see the group

See parts inside five

The whole has five counters.

We can see a group of three and a group of two. Three and two make five.

A 

B 

amount How many there are.
group Things we look at together.
frame Spaces that help us arrange counters.

A 

Count from the left. What if you start at the right?

Five either way. Each counter gets one number.

WORKED INVESTIGATION

Spot the buttons

A coat has four buttons in a square. You might see two on top and two below before you count any of them.

Look at this part	What it tells you
Top pair	2
Bottom pair	2
Both pairs	4

Work it through

Place five buttons like the dots on a die. Cover the middle. Four are visible. Lift your hand: the middle one makes five.

Catch the mistake

Two children see the four as two pairs or as three and one. Both groupings use each button once. They describe the same four.

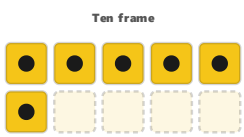
Compare the cases

Use the spaces

A ten-frame has two rows of five spaces.

Six counters fill one row and one more space. See five and one.

Ten frame



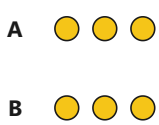
6

Ten frame - how many?

The pattern may change

Six counters can also look like two groups of three.

The groups look different. The total is still six.



Change one condition

Scatter the five buttons. If the groups are hard to see now, move them into a pair and a group of three to check.

Look, do not rush

A quick look helps only if you can explain what you saw.

If you are unsure, count. Counting is a good way to check.

Try with a teacher

Use five large counters. Show them briefly, then cover them.

Tell your teacher the groups you saw. Uncover and check together.



How can you see five without starting at one again?

See three, then count on: four, five.

ILLUSTRATED PROBLEM SHEET

One whole, several splits

One group can be split in different ways. Rejoining all the parts restores the whole.

1

A ○○○○○

B ○

What is the whole?

Start at five and count one more. Six.

2

A ○○○○

B ○○

What changed from five and one?

One moved to the second row. There are still six.

3

A ○○○

B ○○○

Can both parts match?

Yes. Three and three make six.

4

A ○○○○○○

B

Does an empty part change the total?

Six and zero still make six.

Seven split as 5 and 2
rejoin to check.

Seven split as 4 and 3
same whole, different parts.

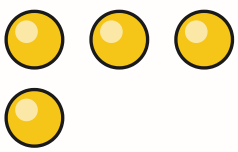
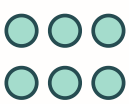
CHAPTER PROBLEM

Must you guess when you cannot see an amount quickly?

No. Count each object once to check.

QUESTION BANK · FOLD OR COVER THE RIGHT COLUMN

Check your reasoning

Try the problem	Solution and reasoning
01 How many dots can you see? How did you see them? **Dot pattern** How many dots?  **Subitising - see the group**	Four. You might see three and one. Counting each dot is also fine.
02 A friend counts “one, two, four” while touching three buttons. Which part needs fixing?	Use the counting words in order. The last word should be three.
03 Six counters are under two cups. Four are visible under one. How many are hidden under the other?	Two. Four and two remake six.
04 You see two buttons on each side of a card and one in the middle. How can you tell how many without counting by ones?	Two and two make four. The middle button is one more, so there are five.
05 Five dots are arranged as two pairs and a single. Cover one pair. What remains?	The other pair and the single make three.
06 How could you see six dots without counting them one by one?	Arrange two rows of three. Three and three make six.
07 See the amount in two groups. How many? 	Two rows of three give six counters. Three vertical pairs give the same six.



Which counter cannot find a partner?

One in A. Four needs one more partner than three.

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