



Intriguing problems for pairs working together



1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10

a photocopiable resource from the Association of Teachers of Mathematics

# **First Challenge Activities**

First Challenge Activities were designed for Years 3 and 4 in particular to help children to work independently together in pairs. However the cards can be used by older groups.

The cards are intended to be used by pairs of learners working together to encourage mathematical discussion. All have some form of material or equipment that goes with them because this seems to foster thinking. It means that things can be done by learners without effecting the finished result, so things can be tried out in a non-threatening way, which might not be done if everything had to be written down.

*First Challenge Activities* can be copied onto thin card, or stuck onto card after copying. Covering or laminating will certainly extend their lives.

Numbered counters could be used instead of the small cards that are supplied with Cards 1, 4, 5, 6 and 8.

There are solutions given for all the activities, but these are not necessarily the only possible solutions.

# Contents

#### Activities

Numbers round a square	1
Ben's cards	2
Making shapes	3
How well do you know your tables?	4
Three add to a hundred	5
Eight pairs of numbers	6
Hundred square puzzle	7
Numbers in circles	8
Tile the square	9
Shapes in a grid	10
Equipment sheets	11-14
Solutions	15-16

Jenny Murray has taught in Primary Schools and Teacher Education. Now she has retired she goes into schools to do interesting activities which involve learners in discussing maths together. *First Challenge Activities* are a result of this endeavour! Jenny is also an author for the NRICH web site.

#### First Challenge Activities ISBN - 978 1 898611 71 4

Published by the Association of Teachers of Mathematics Unit 7, Prime Industrial Park, Shaftesbury Street Derby DE23 8YB **T** – 01332 346599 **F** – 01332 204357 **E** – admin@atm.org.uk **W** – www.atm.org.uk



Can you make each of the sides add to other numbers? What is the largest number you can make them add to?

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#### **Ben's cards**

Ben has a set of ten cards numbered 0 - 9 with one digit on each card.

Ben lays five of the cards out face downwards and hides the other five.



The numbers on the first and second cards add to 15, The numbers on the second and third cards add to 12, The numbers on the third and fourth cards add to 14, The numbers on the fourth and fifth cards add to 13.

What are the numbers on Ben's cards?

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## **Eight pairs of numbers**

Use the numbered squares to make eight pairs of numbers that fit the clues. There will be two squares over that you do not need.



If you add them you get 15. The difference between them is 3.



Half of one is equal to twice the other. Their sum is 10.



If you add them you get 5 less than if you multiply them. The difference between them is one.





They add to 6. One number is double the other number.



If you add them you get 12. If you multiply them you get 35.





If you multiply them you get twice what you get if you add them. The difference between them is 3.





If you multiply them you get 40. If you add them you get 13.



If you add them you get 16. The difference between them is 2.

## Hundred square puzzle

Can you build up this hundred square from the pieces supplied?

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#### Tile the square

Can you use the 25 shape tiles to cover the square below so that no column, no row and no diagonal line have the same shape in them?

## Shapes in a grid

The shapes stand for four numbers

You are given the totals of each row and column in the rectangular boxes.

Can you place the shapes you need to make the required totals? (There will be one shape left over.)



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Nu	mbers round	a square	Cut into 9 separate card		
	1	2	3	4	
	5	6	7	8	

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Ben's cards

Cut into 10 separate cards

0	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9

Numbers in circles			Cut into 10 sep	oarate cards
1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10









Shapes in a grid Cut into 4 separate cards



Three add to a hundred Cut into 12 separate cards

10	20	42	86
6	16	30	83
5	14	29	73



#### Ben's cards

Ben has a set of ten cards numbered 0 - 9 with one digit on each card.

Ben lays five of the cards out face downwards and hides the other five.



The numbers on the first and second cards add to 15, The numbers on the second and third cards add to 12, The numbers on the third and fourth cards add to 14, The numbers on the fourth and fifth cards add to 13.

What are the numbers on Ben's cards?





### How well do you know your tables?

The numbers on the small squares are the product of the number cards on each side of them.

Can you fill in this whole square?





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## Eight pairs of numbers

Use the numbered squares to make eight pairs of numbers that fit the clues. There will be two squares over that you do not need.



If you add them you get 15. The difference between them is 3.





Half of one is equal to twice the other. Their sum is 10.





If you add them you get 5 less than if you multiply them. The difference between them is one.





They add to 6. One number is double the other number.





If you add them you get 12. If you multiply them you get 35.





If you multiply them you get twice what you get if you add them. The difference between them is 3.





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If you add them you get 16. The difference between them is 2.

## Hundred square puzzle

Can you build up this hundred square from the pieces supplied?



#### Tile the square

Can you use the 25 shape tiles to cover the square below so that no column, no row and no diagonal line have the same shape in them?

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## Shapes in a grid

The shapes stand for four numbers

You are given the totals of each row and column in the rectangular boxes.

Can you place the shapes you need to make the required totals? (There will be one shape left over.)



#### 

	1	2	3	4	
-	5	6	7	8	_
cards				Cut into 1	0 separate ca
	1			2	Λ
J				3	4
			7		

Numbers i	in circles	Cut into 10	separate cards	
1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

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Cut into 16 separate cards



Tile the square

Cut into 25 separate cards









Solution





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