

# Identifying counting and whole numbers

## Abstract

Learn how to define counting numbers and whole numbers and how to identify them.

**Keywords:** Prealgebra; Math

## Counting numbers

**Counting numbers** (also known as **natural numbers**) can be defined as numbers that start at 1 and continue (by increments of 1).

For example, counting numbers are often represented as:

1, 2, 3, ...

### Info

Your teacher or resource might include zero in the counting numbers as their definition, so you may want to ask your instructor if you should include zero as part of the counting numbers definition for your work.

### Tip

If you know what integers are, then you can consider the counting numbers as the positive integers.

## Practice problem

Which of the following are natural numbers, whole numbers, both, or neither?

- 0
- 41
- -15
- 3
- 5.2
- 105

## Whole numbers

**Whole numbers** can be defined as the natural numbers and zero, for example:

0, 1, 2, 3, ...