

# Understand Tens



## Dear Family,

This week your child is exploring tens.

Two-digit numbers are composed of tens and ones. For example, 39 is composed of 3 tens and 9 ones. Your child is learning to recognize that 1 ten is composed of 10 ones. He or she is also learning to count groups of ten. By exploring the concept of ten, your child will build a foundation for understanding two-digit numbers, as well as prepare to add and subtract two-digit numbers.

In class, your child will use connecting cubes and base-ten blocks to explore tens.

1 ten



10 ones



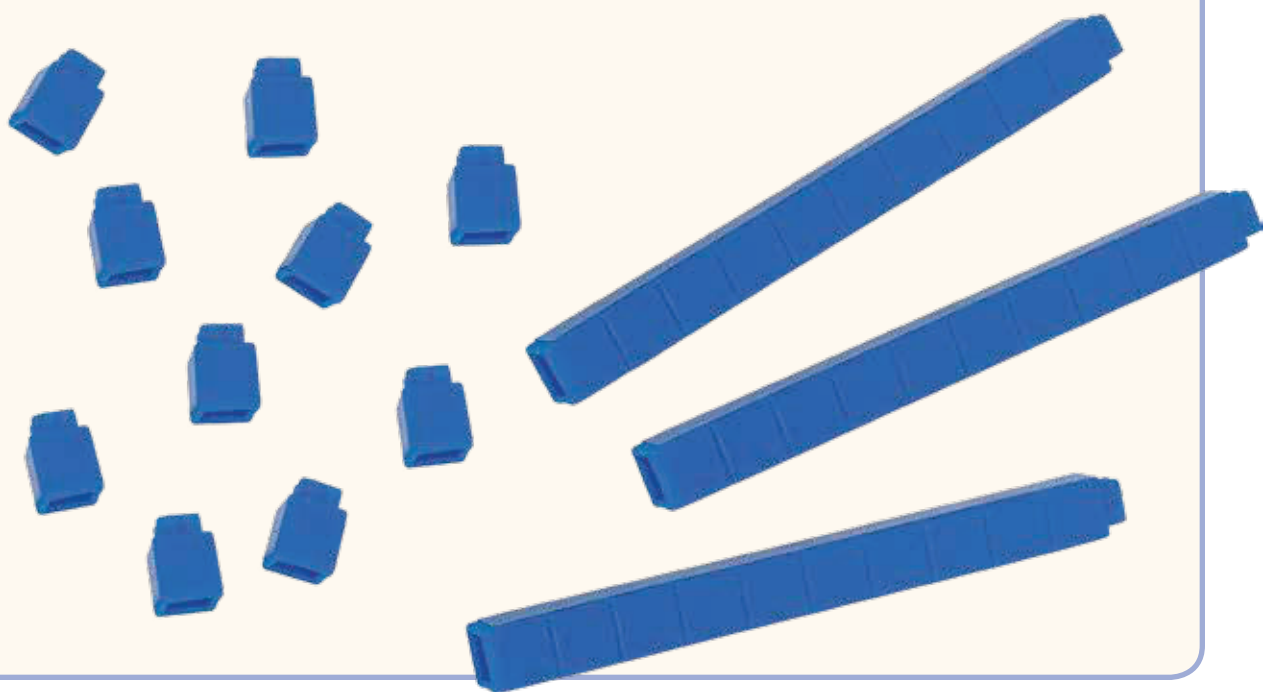
2 tens



20 ones



Invite your child to share what he or she knows about tens by doing the following activity together.



## Activity Exploring Tens

**Do this activity with your child to understand tens.**

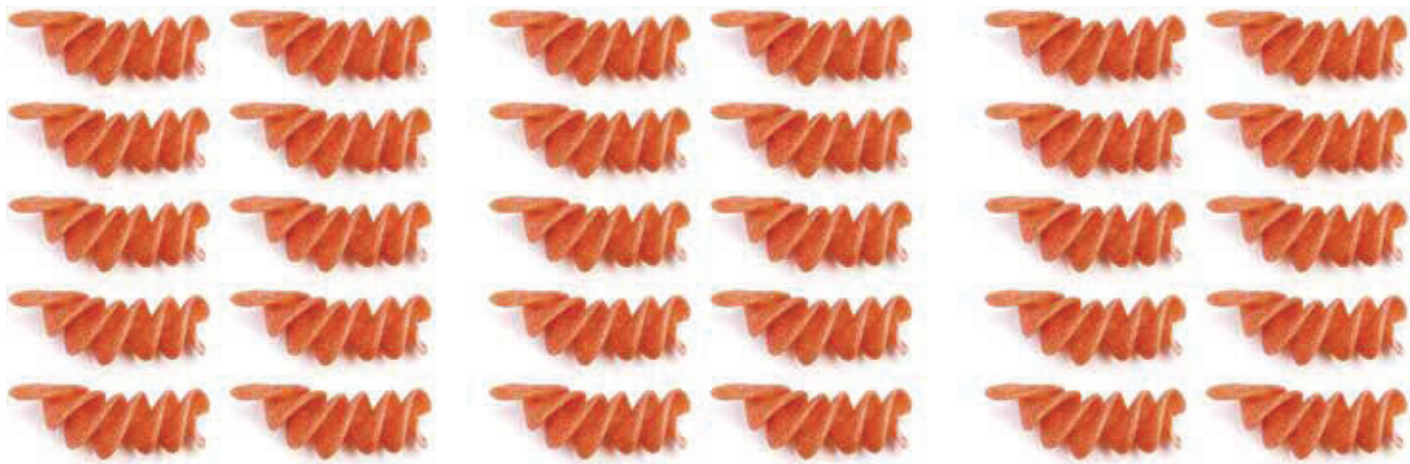
**Materials** 50 small objects (such as pennies, paper clips, cereal pieces, or pasta shapes)

Play “How Many Tens?” with your child. Put 50 small objects in a bowl. Place a handful of the objects on the table. Your child guesses how many tens are on the table, and then you guess. Your child puts the objects into groups of ten, places the extra ones back in the bowl, and then counts the groups of ten to see whose guess was the closest. He or she says how many objects there are and counts to check.

For example:

- Remove a handful of pasta shapes from a bowl and place them on the table. Your child guesses that there are 3 tens. You guess that there are 4 tens.
- Your child puts the pasta into groups of ten and places the extra ones back in the bowl. (If you use pennies, your child may decide to stack each group of ten.)
- Your child counts that there are 3 groups of ten, so 3 tens is the closest guess.
- He or she says there are 30 pasta pieces and counts to check.

**3 tens**



Repeat the activity several times.



# Explore Tens

## Try It

Make groups of 10 to find the missing addends.


$$6 + \underline{\quad} = 10$$


$$7 + \underline{\quad} = 10$$

## Learning Targets

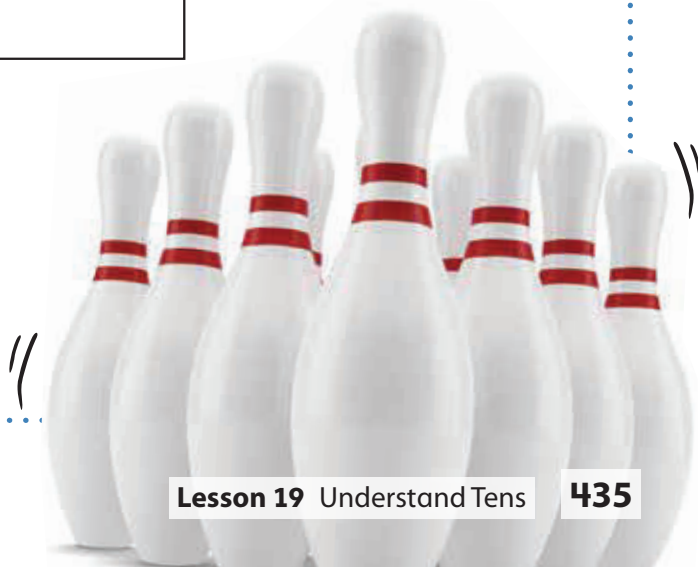
- 10 can be thought of as a bundle of ten ones — called a “ten.”
- The numbers 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 refer to one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, or nine tens (and 0 ones).

**SMP** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8



## Math Toolkit

- connecting cubes 🖱️



## Connect It

Use connecting cubes to fill the 10-frames.  
Make groups of 10.



\_\_\_\_\_ tens

\_\_\_\_\_ ones

