



FAQs

What is NumBots?

NumBots is an online maths game which supports children with their **understanding, recall and fluency** in mental addition and subtraction, so that they move from counting to calculating. Playing little and often will significantly improve your child's recall and understanding of **number bonds and addition and subtraction facts**. These are critical foundations in maths. NumBots can be downloaded as an app on an iPhone, iPad or Android device.



Do the children have their own login?

Yes. Each child has their own personal login. The children have been shown how to login and have brought home a username letter. They might need some help navigating to the app/website and entering the details, but once they're in, they just need some quiet space to get on with the games for 5 minutes.

How often should my child use NumBots and for how long?

In order to get the best out of NumBots children should regularly play for short bursts so we would ask you to give them **5 minutes at least 4 times per week**. Little and often is key, so rather than 20 minutes once a week, aim for 5 minutes 4 times a week.

Are there different game types on NumBots?

Yes. There are two types of games on NumBots that serve different purposes.

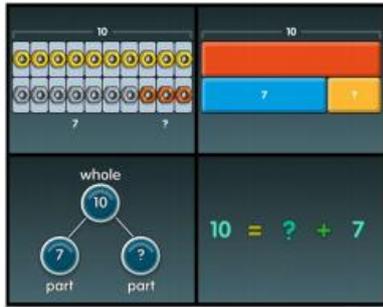
1. **Story Mode** – learning the ideas and concepts behind addition and subtraction so it features more diagrams, representations, shapes, question styles and exposure to different calculation strategies, all in very carefully sequenced order.
2. **Challenge Mode** – speed of recall of key facts, like number bonds to 10, doubling small numbers or adding & taking away in your head.

Have the children completed a baseline assessment for NumBots?

There is no baseline assessment for NumBots. NumBots is underpinned by a mastery approach to teaching so children do not move on until they are fluent in the concept. This is judged by **speed and accuracy**.

How does my child unlock new levels in Story Mode?

Story Mode is set out as a series of Stages (Rust, Tin, Iron, etc.) containing levels. **Rust** is the first stage and level 1 is unlocked, so this is the place for everyone to start. To unlock the next level, players need to earn two stars by showing sufficient proficiency. The levels in Story Mode follow a natural mathematical progression and move the pupil through the game automatically. Below is an example from the number bonds to 10 section:



My child is completing the games. Why are the levels are not unlocking?

Children need to correctly answer the question with speed and accuracy. If they are incorrect or very slow the level/ question will repeat until the child demonstrates sufficient proficiency. The purpose of this is to build the children’s number fluency skills so that they become automatic and do not need to use their fingers to work the answer out.

Important: *please don’t allow siblings, friends or family to answer for them but do support your child if they’re stuck.*

How do you unlock the Challenges in Challenge Mode?

Challenge Mode is locked for new users and is unlocked once players reach a certain level on Story Mode. It’s currently set to unlock part way through **Tin** stage. There are 20 Challenge levels and only the first is unlocked to begin with. To unlock the next Challenge, players must correctly answer 12 questions in a minute.

These questions look too easy for my child. Why are they doing simple counting?

The aim of the counting session is to **automatically** recognise amounts as different representations without counting them one by one. This is known as **subitising** and can be frequently overlooked. NumBots makes "*counting without counting*" a central feature in the early stages because, when done well, it lays the mental foundations for number bonds. This is something that many children, including the most able mathematicians, are not fluently able to do. This level is a fantastic opportunity for children to practice and develop this skill. The children earn coins and use these to purchase items for their personalised robots. This aspect keeps the children motivated to continue.

Once the children are fluency in subitising then what next?

Building on their subitising skills, children smoothly transition onto **number bonds**. Over the course of NumBots, they become lightning fast at number bonds to 5, 10, 20 and 100. Moving from iconic image representations to abstract numbers, NumBots covers practical strategies for approaching different types of calculations - such as bridging to the nearest 10, near doubles, partitioning numbers and compensating.

Can the teachers see how my child is doing?

Yes. Teachers are able to keep track of pupils' progress and usage across the school.