

How to Teach Place Value in Year 5:

Read, Write, Order and Compare Numbers

“ In year 5, children should: read, write, order and compare numbers to at least 1 000 000 and determine the value of each digit. ”

Children encountered reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers up to 10 000 in year 4. In year 5, children build on this by reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers to 1 000 000. This will be built on further in year 6 where they will work with numbers up to 10 000 000.

Key Vocabulary

order, compare, ascending, descending, place value, digit

Common Misconceptions and Errors

Children may find numbers that contain several placeholders, such as 800 050, difficult to read. They may also struggle with when to use the word ‘and’ when saying numbers.

Bringing Maths to Life

Use real-world examples, such as the populations of towns/cities or stadium capacities when ordering and comparing numbers.

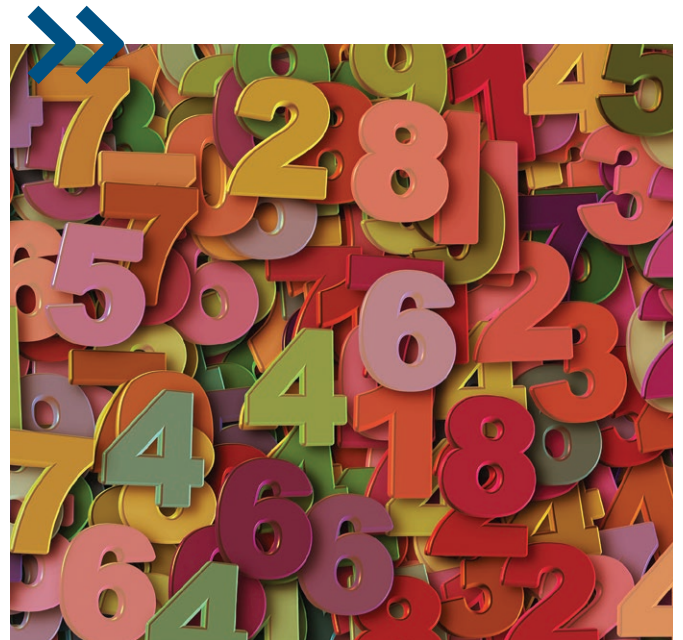
Example Questions to Develop Understanding

- Can you write ... in words?
- What do the digits before/after the comma/ space represent?
- What is the value of each digit in this number?
- Can you order these numbers in descending order?
- Which number is greater than/less than...? How do you know?
- Can you draw a picture to represent this number?
- Are you able to partition this number? Can you do it in more than one way?

Teaching and Learning Points

- Use a comma or separation gap to help children read and write numbers.
- Encourage children to explain what the digits before or after a comma/separation gap represent.
- Ask children to convert numbers written in words into numerals and vice versa.

- Children should identify the value of a digit within numbers up to 1 000 000.
- Use ‘Do, then explain’ activities with your children. For example, ask them to order 5 numbers from smallest to largest and then identify the third number. Can they explain how they ordered the numbers?
- Use a number line to help children when ordering numbers.
- Model how to use greater than or less than symbols (<, >).
- Draw representations of numbers up to 1 000 000 as part – whole models, or by placing counters on a place value grid.
- Provide children with activities where they must match representations to different numbers up to 1 000 000.
- Use ‘complete the missing number’ activities, such as:
 $34\ 289 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} + 4000 + \underline{\hspace{2cm}} + 80 + 9$
- Use ‘spot the mistake’ activities and ask children to explain how they identified the mistake.
- Use place value riddles to develop understanding.



Year 5 Number and Place Value
Challenge Cards