

Maths Game

Last One Loses

A game for 2 or more players

Instructions

Players take turns to say the next 1, 2 or 3 multiples of the times table they are practising, starting at zero.

The player who says the twelfth multiple is the loser.

For example, if practising the 3 times table, the game might look like this:

Player 1: 0, 3
Player 2: 6, 9, 12
Player 1: 15
Player 2: 18, 21, 24
Player 1: 27, 30
Player 2: 33
Player 1: 36

Once a player loses, the game starts again. You could either play again with the same times table or practice a different one.

If you are playing with more than two players, when one of the players says the twelfth multiple, that player is out. Play continues with the remaining players and the same times table until only one player is left.

Information for Parents/Carers

This game helps children to learn to count in multiples. This is not quite the same as the expectations for knowing multiplication tables as that involves learning individual facts, but counting in multiples is still helpful for sequences and reading scales.

As a guide to the numbers to work with for your child:

Reception: Count in ones (0 – 12)

Year One: Count in ones (0 – 12), twos (0 – 24), fives (0 – 60) and tens (0 – 120)

Year Two: Count in ones (0 – 12), twos (0 – 24), threes (0 – 36), fives (0 – 60) and tens (0 – 120)

Year Three: Count in ones (0 – 12), twos (0 – 24), threes (0 – 36), fours (0 – 48), fives (0 – 60), eights (0 – 96) and tens (0 – 120)

Years Four, Five and Six: Count in ones (0 – 12), twos (0 – 24), threes (0 – 36), fours (0 – 48), fives (0 – 60), sixes (0 – 72), sevens (0 – 84), eights (0 – 96), nines (0 – 108), tens (0 – 120), elevens (0 – 132) and twelves (0 – 144)

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This is a simple game that you can always win if you go second! As the loser is the first player to say the 12th multiple (or the 13th number), the aim is to ensure that you always say the 11th multiple to force your opponent to say the 12th. You can do this by totalling the number of your opponents multiples and your multiples to 4. For example, if your opponent says 1 multiple, you say the next 3; if they say 2 multiples, you say the next 2; if they say 3 multiples, you say the next 1. This way, you will always say the 11th multiple.

See if your child can figure out the strategy!

To see this game in action, you can watch it on the LPDS YouTube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkh0UayhsUc>