Posing the Task

The Number Plate Challenge

Topic: Number

Students investigate and discuss representing a number in equivalent forms.

Year Group: 1st Year Level: Mixed Ability

Billie is designing, making and selling number plates. Each can have a maximum of six characters, numbers or letters. Billie cannot use plus and minus signs, or any other mathematical symbols. He can make 10 by using '10' or by 'TEN'. In how many ways can he make 2? Using the letters of the alphabet and digits 0-9 how many different ways can you write the number two?



Presenting the Students' Work



Reflecting on the Learning

The lesson was a successful introduction to word problems in algebra. Students were able to complete the tasks set and discuss their solutions. They also learned from each other to enhance their own solutions. The responses were mostly as expected. Some students couldn't get past TWO or TOO and needed the examples from their peers to realise what was possible. Some students came up with interesting solutions and really relished the challenge. The main misconception noticed was that some students had the operation the wrong way around '3 TAKE 5' instead of 5 TAKE 3. This is a common problem when we start word problems and this would open the discussion around the meaning of mathematical operations. The lesson was really only an introduction to word problems and the real value of it could not be determined until the remaining lessons are complete. The fact that students found the tasks challenging but achievable at least meant that they would be prepared to face the next set of tasks with optimism.

KILLINA PRESENTATION SECON



Developed Majella Guest, with thanks to Liam Newell MDT, Mrs Whelan and students from Killina Presentation SS, Co. Offaly.

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