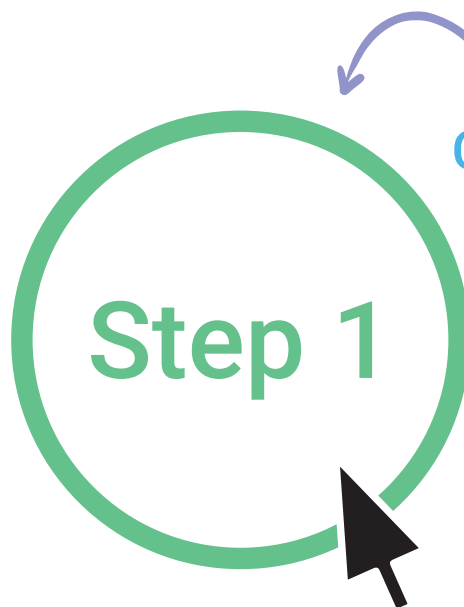


Year 6 Negative Numbers: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to year 6 negative numbers can help you support your child's learning at home. The subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when learning about year 6 negative numbers, either to support your child's homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. In this guide, you will find a step that matches your child's level of understanding and then have suggested activities which can be used to support that step.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.

language features of non-fiction writing



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We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

Negative Numbers

What Are Negative Numbers?

A negative number is a number that is less than zero. When counting backwards, we don't stop at zero, but we go into negative numbers. They are often used when taking the temperature, but can be used in other contexts too such as underground floors in a building or car park. Negative numbers are written the same as positive numbers (numbers that are above zero) but they have a minus sign placed in front of them e.g. -4, -5, -6, -7 etc.

What Are Children Taught about Negative Numbers in Year 6?

In year 6, children build on their learning from previous years by continuing to use negative numbers in different contexts. They will also continue to calculate different amounts going across zero, such as $7 - 15 = -8$.

This guide will help you support the learning of year 6 negative numbers at home. Each step contains an explanation to that stage and a link to an appropriate resource which can be used at home to support your child's learning.

As well as using the resources in this category, and the keyword searches to help your child with place value and number, below are a few ideas for games and activities to help your child practise negative numbers at home.

Temperature Taking

This can be a fun activity to help your child practise using negative numbers in context. For this, you will need a thermometer. With your child, record the temperature in your freezer, the fridge and a room in the home. Discuss how to read the thermometer and the differences in temperature around your home. This skill can help them when reading thermometers in school. You could also keep a winter temperature chart, taking the outside temperature each day together and recording the results to find out how many days the temperature fell below zero degrees.

Say the Next Number

This simple activity builds on counting negative numbers together but in this instance, you take it in turns. Explain to your child that you are going to count backwards together. Then, say a number such as 2. Take it in turns at saying the next number in the sequence e.g. 2, 1, 0, -1, -2, -3 etc. This can help your child think carefully about negative numbers in a sequence. You can also challenge your child by counting backwards in different steps, such as twos: 4, 2, 0, -2, -4, -6 etc.

Make a Negative Number Line

This involves making a large line of negative numbers in sequence which your child can practise counting backwards and forwards on by hopping along the line and saying each number in the sequence. There are several ways you could make this: drawing it out in chalk on the driveway or garden; sticking lots of sheets of paper together in a line, each with the next number in the sequence; making foam tiles with the numbers in the sequence; using water to paint the numbers on an outside wall.

Negative Numbers Tug-of-War

This activity involves a bit of preparation. Make a number line with intervals going from -12 to 12 on card or paper. Place a counter on zero and decide who will be negative and who will be positive. Take turns to roll a dice and move the counter further towards your side of the number line. Take turns rolling the dice until one person reaches their end of the line (12 or -12).





Step 1

Counting Forwards and Backwards Through Zero

Children in year 6 continue their work on negative numbers from year 5 by counting forwards and backwards through zero.

6, 3, 0, -3, -6, -9

This **Counting Forwards and Backwards with Positive and Negative Whole Numbers worksheet** can be completed by your child at home to help them practise counting backwards and forwards through zero.



Recognising Negative Numbers in Context

At school, children will see negative numbers in contexts, such as on thermometers or on number lines. At home, you can try researching the differences in temperatures between cold places around the world, such as the Arctic or Scandinavia. You can also use this **Year 6 Negative Numbers in Context Worksheet** which you and your child can discuss and complete together.



Step 2



Step 3

Solving Negative Number Problems

In school, teachers encourage children to develop mastery in maths. This is the ability to use their understanding of, and confidence with, negative numbers to solve problems. In class, children will be presented with a variety of problems to help them develop their reasoning and problem-solving skills in maths. At home, you can try using these **Year 6 Maths Mastery Negative Numbers Challenge Cards** and complete the problems with your child.

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