

# National Numeracy Day

Numbers and Rap

With Harry Baker

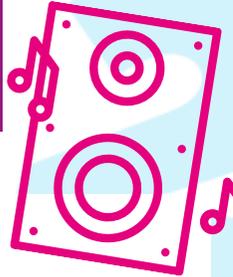


**Harry Baker**

Poet and mathematician  
National Numeracy Ambassador

I love maths! I know not everyone agrees with me on this one. But maths doesn't have to be scary. And to prove it, this National Numeracy Day, I have written a special Numeracy Day Rap and put together some number rap activities to help everyone feel differently about maths. You can share your own rap videos with me as #NationalNumeracyDay and tag me @harrybakerpoet.

Everyone can have fun watching Harry perform his rap on the National Numeracy Day website ([click here](#)) or perform it themselves by using the lyrics below.



## Harry's Rap

I'm a - mathematician going mad for addition  
Then abracadabra, subtract I am a magician  
It could be pattern recognition or just pancakes in the kitchen  
Wishing you were flipping with precision

Maybe some numbers leave our brains feeling number  
Maybe some sums leave us craving the summer  
Whatever your level is, you may end up surprised  
I guess you never know unless you try

Sometimes it's hard, that is okay too  
We build from one, til we're on - okay - two  
When we start slow and we see things through  
You'll be amazed at what we can do

Children 4+

Thinking about rhyming and maths

In his rap Harry rhymes 'addition' with 'magician'. What other maths rhymes can you think of? Can you think of rhymes for the words below? Maybe you can add some more maths words to try and rhyme - what about some numbers or shapes?

**Maths words:**

**Rhymes with...**

• Add

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• Divide

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• Sum

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• Money

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• Time

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•

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**Children 7+**  
**Rhyme and Rhythm**  
**Let's write our own lines for a rap**



The most important thing when writing a rap is the rhythm.

Start by clicking your fingers and clapping your hands in a steady beat: click - clap - click - clap. This makes 4 beats - or 1 'bar'.

Each line of our rap is 1 bar long. Our words for the rap should fit the beat, with the rhymes coming on the 4th beat of the bar. For example:

**Start the beat with a click and a clap**  
**Let's all write a number rap.**

Click	Clap	Click	Clap
<b>Start the</b>	<b>beat, with a</b>	<b>click and a</b>	<b>clap</b>

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Click	Clap	Click	Clap
<b>Let's all</b>	<b>write a</b>	<b>number</b>	<b>rap</b>

**Using some of the rhyming words you already thought of can you write two lines that rhyme with each other and fit the beat? Remember each line should be 4 beats long.**

My two lines (first draft):

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Practise your lines out loud to make sure each one fits the rhythm: click-clap-click-clap.

If your rhyming words don't land on the clap, there are things you could try to make them fit:

- Rap more slowly or quickly on some of the words
- Take away some words or add some more
- Try using shorter or longer words instead

**Make sure your rap still makes sense if you change the words!**

When you're happy with your final two lines, write them here:

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You could even write some more lines if you like.



**Perform your rap**

Practise a group rap performance.

Set the beat by all clicking and clapping in time together.

Then go round the group so that everyone raps the two lines they've written.

You could collectively write a final set of two lines together to give an epic ending!