

What does “Fluent to 5” mean?

You may have heard your child’s kindergarten teacher mention that your child should be “fluent to 5 by the end of kindergarten.” This is a reference to Common Core State Standard K.OA.5

Students that are developing computational understanding may give incorrect answers to the problems shown below. Also, students that continue to count on their fingers and/or count out loud as a strategy are not yet displaying fluency. Complete understanding, or fluency, is a quick (no more than 3 second) answer that does not use counting.

In all, fluency to 5 requires students to know 32 addition and subtraction answers by memory before 1st grade. However, there are 9 additional facts that can be practiced as “turn around” facts that represent the Commutative Property of Addition. For example, if $0 + 3$ is a core fact, $3 + 0$ is its “turn around” fact.

While students are exposed to all of these facts (and more) in kindergarten, when working to achieve fact fluency, students usually work on the 0, 1, 2, and 3 facts until mastery is displayed and then work toward achieving mastery at 4, before finally working toward mastery at 5. While the equations are provided for your convenience, assessing fact fluency also involves asking students to solve situations for the facts from a story problem. For example, if your child is working to master $2 + 1$, to assess understanding, the teacher might say, “There are 2 pencils in the can. I put 1 more pencil in the can. How many pencils are in the can?”

<p>0 and 1 Facts</p> $0 + 0$ $0 + 1$ and $1 + 0$ $0 - 0$ $1 - 0$	<p>2 Facts include all of 0 and 1 facts and also:</p> $0 + 2$ and $2 + 0$ $1 + 1$ $2 - 0$ $2 - 1$ $2 - 2$	<p>3 Facts include all of 0, 1, and 2 facts and also:</p> $0 + 3$ and $3 + 0$ $1 + 2$ and $2 + 1$ $3 - 0$ $3 - 1$ $3 - 2$ $3 - 3$
<p>4 Facts include all of 0, 1, 2, and 3 and also:</p> $0 + 4$ and $4 + 0$ $1 + 3$ and $3 + 1$ $2 + 2$ $4 - 0$ $4 - 1$ $4 - 2$	<p>4 Facts continued:</p> $4 - 3$ $4 - 4$ <p>5 Facts include all of the 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4 facts and also:</p> $0 + 5$ and $5 + 0$ $1 + 4$ and $4 + 1$	<p>5 Facts continued:</p> $2 + 3$ and $3 + 2$ $5 - 0$ $5 - 1$ $5 - 2$ $5 - 3$ $5 - 4$ $5 - 5$

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