Counting Backwards: From 10 and 20

Count back, one less each time. Write the missing numbers.

10	9	8		6	5		3		1	0

10	9		7			4		2		

20	19		17	16		14	13		11	10		8	7		5	4		2		0

20		18			15		13	12		10	9		7	6			3		1	

Counting Backwards: Across the Tens

Count back, one less each time. Watch for the new ten. Write the missing numbers.

43	42	41		39	

82	81			78	77

100		98	97		95

62	61		59		57

34	33	32	31		

91			88	87	86

53	52	51			48

71		69		67	66

Counting Backwards: From 120

Count back from 120. After 101 comes 100, then 99. Write the missing numbers.

120	119		117		115	114		112	111	
105	104	103		101			98	97		95
110		108		106	105		103	102		
101			98	97	96		94	93	92	
114		112	111			108	107		105	
103	102			99		97				



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Counting Backwards: Answer Key

For the grown-up. Each red number sits where your child writes it.

Page 1

10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

Page 2

43	42	41	40	39	38
100	99	98	97	96	95
34	33	32	31	30	29
53	52	51	50	49	48

82	81	80	79	78	77
62	61	60	59	58	57
91	90	89	88	87	86
71	70	69	68	67	66

Page 3

120	119	118	117	116	115	114	113	112	111	
105	104	103	102	101	100	99	98	97	96	95
110	109	108	107	106	105	104	103	102	101	
101	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91
114	113	112	111	110	109	108	107	106	105	
103	102	101	100	99	98	97				

For Grown-Ups: How to Use These Worksheets

One page at a time, after the forward strips. Print it last of the three counting sheets.

Why use it

Counting backwards is harder than counting forward, because your child has to find the number before, and a young counter finds even the number after by counting up from 1. Texas asks kindergartners to count back from 20 and first graders back from 120. Later, counting back becomes one of the first ways children subtract.

What it is good for

- Kindergarten: counting down from 10, then from 20 to 0, on page 1.
- Counting back across a ten, such as 41, 40, 39, on page 2.
- First grade: back from 120 and across 100, on page 3.

How to use it

1. Before the sheet, count down from 10 together, like a rocket launch.
2. On the sheet, your child reads each strip left to right. Each number is one less.
3. At a blank, say the number before it and ask for one less.
4. Slow down at a new ten, such as 40 to 39: it is the change at 9, in reverse.
5. Check with the answer key on page 4. Each red number sits where your child writes it.

> **Try saying:** “43, 42, 41. What is one less than 41? And one less than 40?”

Tip: After 101 comes 100, then 99. If page 3 is hard, go back to page 2 for a while.