

SAME RULES, DIFFERENT CHALLENGES:

A SUITE OF GAMES FOR PRACTISING NUMBER EFFECTIVELY

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The card games to be presented through this poster were invented by the author in 1978. They can provide specifically differentiated individual and group based practice of mental recall and mental strategic thinking in number contexts. They progress from self-checked working out by one or two students of each set of 6 to 9 cards, through to speed practice in a game format by groups of 4 to 6 players, using packs of 24 to 72 cards. Discussions arising from playing the games can provide diagnostic and formative assessment, while enhancing the insights of students. Using the same rules, around 50 different sets have been designed to meet identified needs, so that students do not have to learn new rules to play gradually more advanced games.

The poster will:

- give full details of a variety of uses of an example game set;
- illustrate key features and how they differ from other superficially similar games;
- relate the use of these games to the ideas of *productive practising*;
- indicate responses of students in pre-school and elementary classes, and views of their teachers, over 2 years of use as a central part of their number curriculum;
- outline how these games relate to the English *National Numeracy Strategy*;
- relate the educational value of these games to the ideas of Vygotsky, Gattegno, Freudenthal, Wittmann and others.

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