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# Knowing Our Numbers

Mastering Numbers: The Foundation of Mathematics

## DEFINITION

> Knowing our numbers means understanding different types of numbers and their uses. It helps us perform basic math operations and solve problems effectively.

## KEY CONCEPTS

### Natural Numbers

Natural numbers are positive whole numbers starting from 1, like 1, 2, 3, and so on.

### Whole Numbers

Whole numbers include all natural numbers and the number 0, like 0, 1, 2, 3.

### Integers

Integers are whole numbers that can be positive, negative, or zero, such as -3, 0, and 5.

### Rational Numbers

Rational numbers are numbers that can be expressed as a fraction, like 1/2 or 3/4.

### Place Value

Place value tells us the value of a digit based on its position in a number, like in 345, the 3 is in the hundreds place.

## EXAMPLES

→ The number 7 is a natural number.

→ In the number 204, the 2 represents 200.

→ The fraction 3/5 is a rational number.

## MEMORY TIPS

★ Remember 'N' for Natural starts at 1, while 'W' for Whole includes 0.

★ Think of Integers as a number line with both positive and negative sides.

★ Use 'P' in Place for Position to recall the value of digits.

## COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Confusing natural numbers with whole numbers by forgetting 0.

✗ Misidentifying integers as only positive numbers.

✗ Forgetting that rational numbers can be whole numbers too.

## QUICK RECAP

Knowing our numbers is essential for understanding basic math concepts. Focus on the types of numbers and their properties to solve problems effectively.