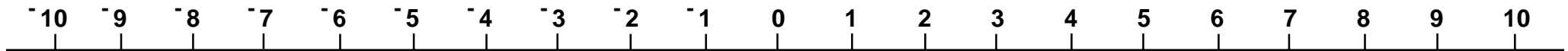


The BIG Number Line



A number line is a good item to have on permanent display in almost any classroom and its merits hardly need any explanation or justification.

So here is one to be made and displayed. It is BIG physically and is readable at 10 metres (33 feet) with normal vision. If used in its entirety, it will need to be spread over more than one wall in the average-sized classroom. Not all of it has to be used of course, its very DIY nature means it can be ‘cut to size’.

As a guide to estimating how much to use, the complete line supplied here is nearly 8 metres long (just over 25 feet). It goes from -40 to 40 and includes continuation lines at each end. If an abbreviated form is required, use this table as a guide to what length would be most suitable.

			metres	feet
-5	to	5	1.5	4.7
-10	to	10	2.3	7.7
-15	to	15	3.2	10.6
-20	to	20	4.1	13.6
-25	to	25	5.0	16.5
-30	to	30	5.9	19.5
-35	to	35	6.8	22.4
-40	to	40	7.7	25.4

Note the ‘high’ placing of the negative sign. This done as a reminder that there is a difference between -6 (negative 6, which is a position on a number line) and -6 (minus 6, which is an operator).

It might be worth thinking of the possibility of a ‘portable version’ in some situations. Keep it short enough to be handleable, and it is easy enough to roll up and carry.

Just like any other DIY object in kit-form, we provide some instructions on how to make it!

First, having decided on the required length, print out just the necessary pages. This means the first page after this one (containing the zero) and the last two pages (containing the continuation lines) plus all the others containing the numbers you require - this will have to be done by looking at all the pages.

Second, cut off the **left-hand** edge of each sheet at the dotted line (*just inside, to make sure none of it shows in the assembled line*). Third, cut each sheet in half, on the dotted line down the middle.

Now get all the separate strips in order and start sticking! One of the modern ‘glue-sticks’ is useful here. Think of the strips as being assembled from left to right, one at a time, working in pairs with a ‘left-hand strip’ and a ‘right-hand strip’. On the **back** of a right-hand strip put some glue on the left-hand edge, then turn it face-side up and stick it down on the right-hand edge of the (correct, face-up) left-hand strip. Make sure the dotted line is only just covered.

It is easier to do than to describe. [It is also easier for those used to hanging wallpaper!] But a good think about the operation, and knowing what the final result should look like, before applying any glue, should make things clear.

Make regular use of the edge of the working-surface to ensure that you are keeping to a straight line - it is all too easy to produce a curve. Because of possible irregularities in the printing it might be necessary to do a little trimming with scissors along the top and bottom edges of the finished strip to remove any discontinuities in the region of the joins.

Finally, put it up! Blu-tack (or similar) useful for this. Have fun!

Our thanks are due to Kersten Watkins for suggesting this in the first place.

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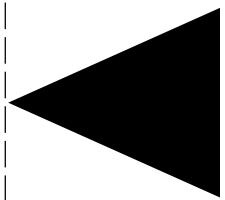


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