



FIRST BELOW ZERO

Age range: 2nd Grade +

Number of players: 2

Learning: Subtract multiples of 10, strategy, negative numbers

You will need

- a calculator



Instructions

- Set the calculator to 250.
- Each player can subtract 10, 20, 30 or 40 when it is their turn.
- Players **cannot** choose not to take a turn, or subtract 0.
- The winner is the first player to reach a negative number (you do not win the game if you reach zero!).

Example of play

Calculator reads 250.

Player 1 chooses to subtract 30. Calculator reads 220.

Player 2 chooses to subtract 40. Calculator reads 180.

Player 1 chooses to subtract 40. Calculator reads 140.

Player 2 chooses to subtract 20. Calculator reads 120.

Player 1 chooses to subtract 40. Calculator reads 80.

Player 2 chooses to subtract 30. Calculator reads 50.

Player 1 chooses to subtract 20. Calculator reads 30.

Player 2 chooses to subtract 40. Calculator reads -10. Player 2 wins.



Variations on the game:

- Change the total at the start to a different number.
- The first player to a negative number loses the game.
- Change the rules so that players can subtract 10, 20, 30, 40 or 50.



2ND GRADE

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