

The numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are displayed in a 3D, gold-colored font, slanted upwards from left to right.

Consecutive numbers

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The numbers 5, 6, 7, and 8 are displayed in a 3D, gold-colored font, slanted upwards from left to right.

The Busy Lizzie Maths Library

Consecutive numbers

Can you find three consecutive numbers which add up to 39?

The numbers 6, 7, and 8 are displayed in a 3D, gold-colored font, centered on the page.

- What other numbers up to 50 can you make by adding three consecutive numbers?
- What do you already know about consecutive numbers?
- How are you going to solve this problem?

Consecutive numbers

Take 39 and divide it by 3

$$39 \div 3 = 13$$

The answer is your middle number

The largest number is your middle number +1

The smallest number is your middle number -1

12 13 14

If you add 12, 13 and 14 together you will get 39.

Why does this work?

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Consecutive numbers

What other numbers up to 50 can you make by adding three consecutive numbers?

Here are all the numbers to 50. Which ones will you try? Why?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

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Consecutive numbers

First look for multiples of 3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

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Consecutive numbers

First look for multiples of 3. Divide by 3 and adjust the first and last number.

Here is a list of numbers that will give you three consecutive numbers (no decimals).

Starting number	Number divided by 3	Consecutive numbers
3	1	0, 1, 2
6	2	1, 2, 3
9	3	2, 3, 4
12	4	3, 4, 5
15	5	4, 5, 6
18	6	5, 6, 7
21	7	6, 7, 8
24	8	7, 8, 9
27	9	8, 9, 10
30	10	9, 10, 11
33	11	10, 11, 12
36	12	11, 12, 13
39	13	12, 13, 14
42	14	13, 14, 15
45	15	14, 15, 16
48	16	15, 16, 17

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