

Home Base, Part A

Beginning problems about numbers in various bases.

If you haven't already practiced, take an opportunity now.

Geogebra link: <https://tube.geogebra.org/m/1529377>

Geogebra link: <https://tube.geogebra.org/m/1527705>

For the “free response” questions below, type your own answer before revealing the hint.

Problem 1 Explain why the following “joke” is “funny.” There are 10 types of people in the world. Those who understand base two and those who don't.

Free Response: **Hint:** In base two, 10 is actually two. So people who do not understand base two will not get the joke.

Problem 2 You meet some Tripod aliens, they tally by threes. Thankfully for everyone involved, they use the symbols 0, 1, and 2.

(a) Demonstrate how a Tripod would count from beginning at 11.

11, 12, 20, 21, 22, 100, 101, 102,
110, 111, 112, 120, 121, 122, 200, 201

(b) What number comes immediately before 10? 2

(c) Before 210? 202

(d) Before 20110? 20102 Explain your reasoning.

Problem 3 You meet some people who tally by sevens. They use the symbols O, A, B, C, D, E, and F, in that order. (Note: Although it is common to use the letters A through F for digits greater than ten, these people are doing something different.)

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- (a) What do the individual symbols O , A , B , C , D , E , and F mean? (Note O is not 0.)

Free Response: **Hint:** 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, respectively.

- (b) Demonstrate how to count from DD to AOC ? (Note: Case matters.)

DD , DE , DF , EO , EA , EB , EC ,
 ED , EF , FO , FA , FB , FC , FD ,
 FE , FF , AOO , AOA , AOB , AOC

- (c) What number comes immediately before AO ? F

- (d) Before ABO ? AAF

- (e) Before $EOFFA$? $EOFFO$

Problem 4 Now, suppose that you meet a hermit who tallies by thirteens.

Demonstrate the hermit's counting below. 8, 9, A , B , C , 10, 11, 12, ..., 18, 19, 1A, 1B, 1C, 20, 2