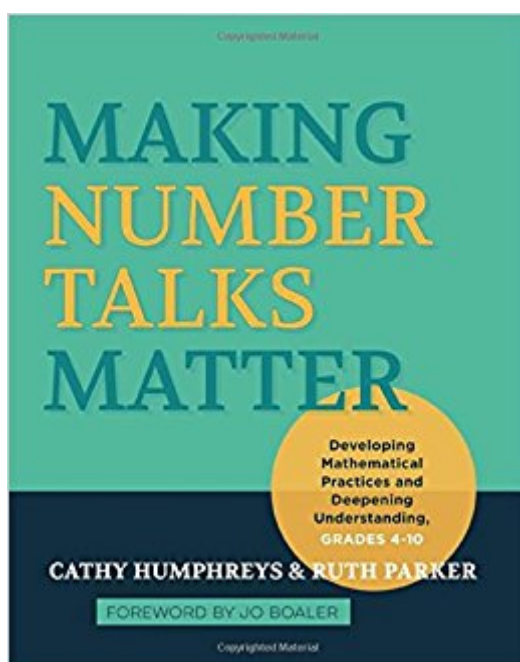


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# Making Number Talks Matter: Developing Mathematical Practices And Deepening Understanding, Grades 4-10



## Synopsis

Making Number Talks Matter is about the myriad decisions facing teachers as they make this fifteen-minute daily routine a vibrant and vital part of their mathematics instruction. Throughout the book, Cathy Humphreys and Ruth Parker offer practical ideas for using Number Talks to help students learn to reason numerically and build a solid foundation for the study of mathematics. This book will be an invaluable resource whether you are already using Number Talks or not; whether you are an elementary, middle school, high school, or college teacher; or even if you are a parent wanting to support your child with mathematics. Using insight gained from many years of doing Number Talks with students of all ages, Cathy and Ruth address questions to ask during Number Talks, teacher moves that turn the thinking over to students, the mathematics behind the various strategies, and ways to overcome bumps in the road. If you've been looking for ways to transform your mathematics classroom to bring sense-making and divergent thinking to the foreground, to bring the Standards for Mathematical Practice to life, and to bring joy back into your instruction this book is for you.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book offers practical advice for teachers using number talks in the classroom, whether new to the strategy or looking to refine their practice. Authors Humphreys and Parker begin by explaining the purpose of number talks and offering easy-to-follow steps for establishing a classroom routine. Teachers who might be hesitant to try number talks with their students will benefit from the eight

basic steps that the authors outline for getting started. Humphreys and Parker offer tips on how to phrase and present problems to students as well as question frames and sentence starters to lead students through the process. Specific teacher moves are also described to encourage student talk over teacher talk and engage students in the process. Individual chapters are dedicated to each of the operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) as well as one with a focus on fractions, decimals, and percentages. Sample problems and classroom vignettes are included within these chapters. Strategies specific to each operation are presented along with tips on how to word problems to encourage the use of each strategy rather than a standard algorithm. The authors also provide samples for use at a variety of grade levels and ideas on how to take a number talk to the next level with small-group and individual applications. A chapter devoted to common issues and suggested solutions will be a useful tool for classroom teachers. I recommend this book to classroom teachers and instructional leaders at the upper elementary and secondary levels. -- Sarah Wargaski, Woodstock Community School District, Illinois.

Cathy Humphreys is currently a doctoral student at Stanford University, where she studies mathematics teaching and learning. She has taught grades 2-12 in the California public schools for thirty years, has worked as an instructor for the Mathematics Education Collaborative and for Math Solutions, and has served as a mathematics coach for the Silicon Valley Mathematics Initiative. She is the coauthor, with Jo Boaler, of *Connecting Mathematical Ideas* (Heinemann, 2005). Ruth Parker is a former classroom teacher and has spent over 20 years leading professional development for math teachers in grades K-12. She is currently the CEO of the Mathematics Education Collaborative, preparing the next generation of mathematics teacher leaders for Washington state. She received her master's degree and her Ph.D. from the University of Oregon. "Nothing is more satisfying than watching my students develop a sense of agency, a curiosity about new mathematical ideas, and an awareness that they have mathematical ideas worth sharing," Ruth says of her love of teaching. Ruth loves to hike, especially in the Pacific Northwest, and playing with her grandchildren.

I teach high school math in a resource room setting. Most of my students are learning disabled in math enough so that they are not successful in co-taught math (with regular education and special education teachers). - - - This book shows me the experiences my students have not had, even with me. I'm so excited to start Number Talks for 15 minutes of the 90 minute classes. Most of my students have not memorized facts or they're all jumbled. On the ACT/SAT or other college

entrance tests, there isn't an option (accommodation) for a calculator. Therefore, it will be essential to puzzle out solutions that accurately calculate problems! To discuss various ways we solve algebra equations.

This book is one of the best that I have seen that gives practical tips about implementing number talks in the middle grades. Most of the other books that I saw seemed geared toward the primary grades. I am going to try to implement number talks this fall in my classroom. This book will assist me immensely.

Great to use with students ~ do wish it had number talks geared toward upper level math classes.

I've always appreciated lower grade teachers using Number Talks with their math students. I had trouble modifying Number Talks to what my sixth graders were learning. I'm really excited to implement this with my students this year. I anticipate it helping my students make sense of number operations, mathematical properties, magnitude, reasonableness, and improving their ability to communicate mathematically.

Every math teacher 1 - 12 should read this and stretch to have discussions and deconstruct and reconstruct even simple arguments

By far one of the best teaching books that I have read in over 10 years! This has changed my teaching for the better!

Love the ready to use ideas and quick, simple, easy to read way about this book! I was using ideas from it from the first day I got it!

I have moaned for years over my students' lack of number sense. "Making Number Talks Matters" gives a practical way to improve that. I can't wait to begin number talks with my students!

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