

BUZZ-FIZZ

This game is very popular with students from grades 3 to 8. It is a fun way to reinforce the concept of multiples and multiplication facts.

Rules:

-the students stand in a large circle. As an optional warm-up, practice counting by twos, threes, fives, etc. around the circle.

-to start Buzz-Fizz, choose a student to start counting. He or she calls out "one", the next person says "two", the next "three" and so on around the circle.

-for every number that has a 7 in it, or is a multiple of 7, the student who has that number says "Buzz" instead of the number. The first ten "Buzz" numbers are 7, 14, 17, 21, 27, 28, 35, 37, 42, 47.

-for every number that has a 5 in it or is a multiple of 5, the student who has that number says "Fizz". The first ten "Fizz" numbers are 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50.

-note that all numbers in the fifties are fizz numbers, and all numbers in the seventies are buzz numbers. If a class is skilled enough to advance through the hundreds, they will find that all of the 500's are fizz numbers, and all of the 700's are buzz numbers!

-for any number that is both a buzz and fizz number, the student says "buzz-fizz". The first ten "buzz-fizz" numbers are 35, 56, 57, 70, 75, 110, 140, 154, 157, 170.

-any student who says the wrong word or number is out, and must sit down. If a student has lost track of the count when it is his turn, the teacher may tell him only the last correct answer. (e.g. "It's your turn, Bobby. Elizabeth said 'fizz', so what do you say?") Students will find that if they are not paying attention they will soon be out.

-extensions: for beginning classes, it may be advisable to play just "Fizz" for awhile, then just "Buzz" for awhile until they get the hang of it.

For more advanced classes, introduce the word "Bang" for 3's ("Buzz-Fizz-Bang!") and/or "Boom" for 2's. If you play "Buzz-Fizz-Bang-Boom" you will seldom hear a student say an actual number.

I have known fourth grade students who memorized all the buzz and fizz numbers through the 400's, and seventh graders who memorized buzz, fizz, and bang through the 200's. Students will often play the game on their own at recess or at home.