

ASb  
approved



# Can We Count Our Cats

Bubaali Primary  
School

Jesse Breytenbach

Early  
Family  
Math



Interactive Story

English

# Adult Readers

**Before Talking** Talk with your child before they can talk or even understand the words. Point at, name, and describe things you see, such as shapes, colors, comparisons, and quantities. As your child begins to understand words, ask about a thing and have your child point at it. For example, "Where is the ball?" If your child can't find the thing, point to it for them.

**Early Talking** As your child begins to understand and say words, mix in simple questions. Freely help with answers as needed. If you point and say "Is this red?" and they don't know, supply the answer. If you say "Count the blocks." and your child does not know how, point and count the blocks with them "one, two, three."

**Math Themes and Words** This story looks at counting from 0 to 9, colors, and color patterns. Practice counting words, color words, words like: too many, biggest number, smallest number, one more, and one less.

**Read, Talk, and Have Fun!** The supplied questions and comments are just the beginning.

For the 1<sup>st</sup> reading, read the red questions and comments.

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, read the blue questions and comments.

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading, read the green questions and comments.

After that, follow your child's interests and let your discussions go in fun directions.



How many cats?

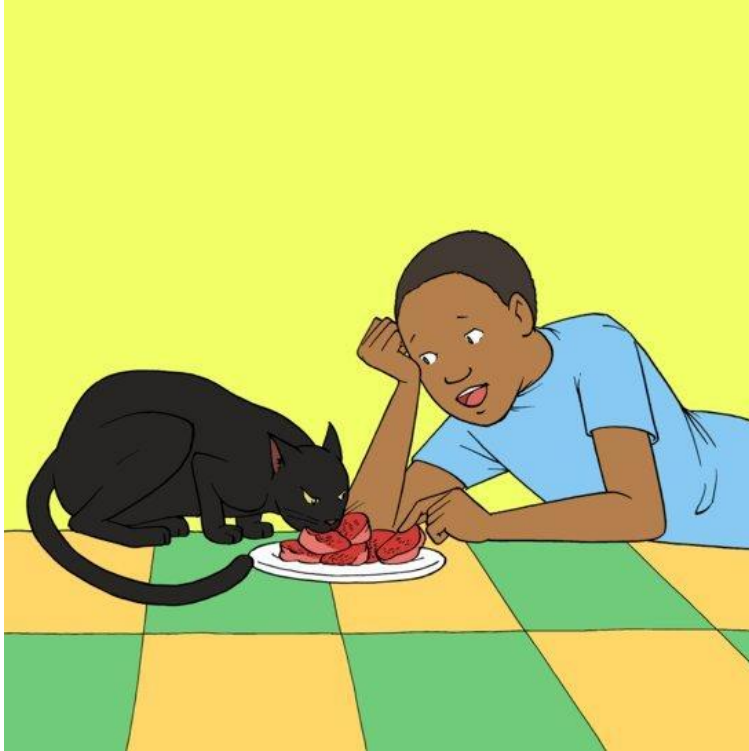
0 Zero cats.

No cats here!

1. 0 is an important number! It's where all counting starts, even when we don't say it.

2. How many cats do you see?

3. Count together the butterflies – they are tricky to find in this picture.



How many cats?

1 One cat.

A black cat is eating red meat.

1. Point to and name the green and orange squares, blue shirt, and black cat.

2. Notice how Paul is looking at the cat. Paul sure likes cats!

3. Each time a cat is added: a) say that one more than the last number of cats is the new number, and b) one less than the current number is the last number.



How many cats?

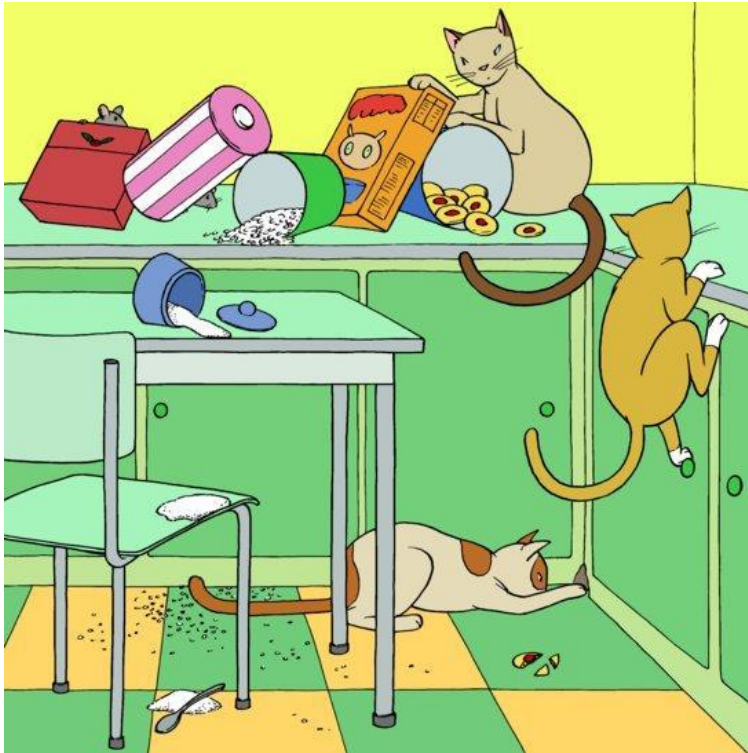
2 Two cats.

A white cat and a grey cat are sleeping.

1. Count together the cats, plants, and people.

2. Of cats, plants, and people, which number is the biggest? Which one is the smallest?

3. Notice that the square tiles are now all the same gray color.



How many cats?

3 Three cats.

Three cats are playing in the kitchen.

1. What a mess! There must be zero people here!

2. Count together each group – the cats, cabinet doors, food containers, and spoons.

3. Which thing is there the most of in this picture?



How many cats?

4 Four cats.

Four cats are Paul's friends.

1. Count all the cats.

2. Which of these cats have you seen before, and which are new? Which ones are missing?

3. Point at and name all the different colors in the room.



How many cats?

5 Five cats.

Five cats chase the dog.

1. Looking at their faces and bodies, do the cats and the dog like each other?

2. Count the number of cats and the number of dogs. Which group is bigger? Poor dog!

3. These cats all have different coloring. Describe the color and pattern of each cat.



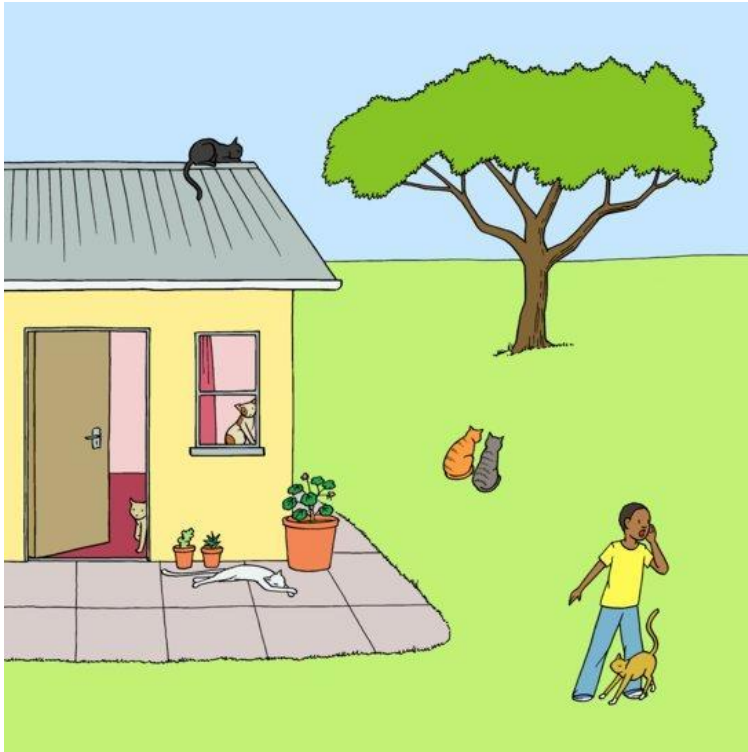


How many cats?

6 Six cats.

Six cats waiting for the dog.

1. Count the cats on the floor and in the picture. Is it the same number?
2. Find a cat or two in the picture on the wall that is not on the floor.
3. The dog doesn't want to come back. Why not?



How many cats?

7 Seven cats.

Seven cats playing in the compound.

1. Point at each of the seven cats.
2. What is Paul looking for?
3. The cat on the roof is the highest cat. How did that cat get up so high?



How many cats?

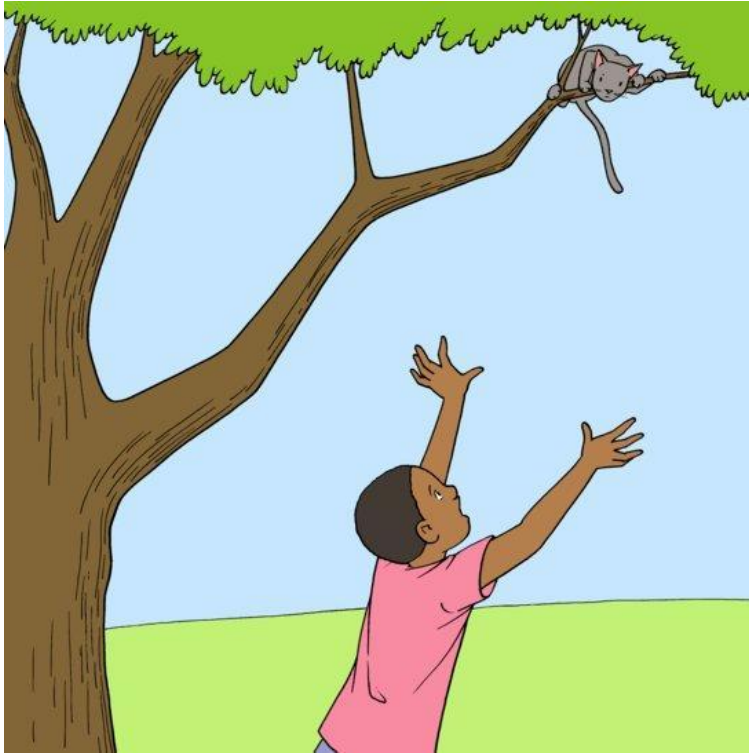
8 Eight cats.

Eight cats and one dog!

1. The cats have many different colors and patterns. Have you seen cats like these?

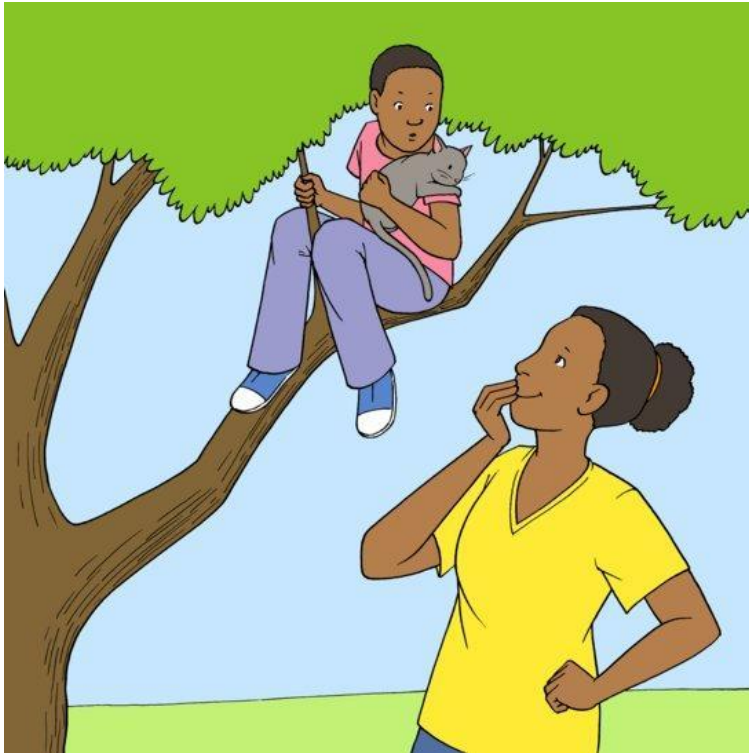
2. Seven cats plus one dog makes how many animals?

3. Do you think the dog looks happy or worried?



A kitten is stuck in a tree!  
"I will rescue you!" says Paul.

1. How many cats are stuck in the tree?
2. How did the cat get up there?
3. The cat is higher than Paul. How will Paul help the cat?



"Mama, can we keep him?"

How many cats?

9 Nine cats.

"That is too many cats!" says  
Mama.

1. One more than eight cats is nine  
cats. A dog and nine cats is how  
many animals?

2. Do you know anyone with cats?  
How many cats do they have?

3. Do you think nine cats is too  
many?

## Can We Count Our Cats?

Author -- Nina Orange

Adaptation -- Bubaali primary school

Illustration -- Jess Breytenbach and Jesse Pietersen

Language -- English

Level -- First sentences

© Bubali Primary School 2015

Creative Commons: Attribution 4.0

Source [www.africanstorybook.org](http://www.africanstorybook.org)