Case 06

The missing pattern rule

Use a rule to continue a pattern

A pattern follows a **rule**. Use the rule you are given. Do not make up a different one.

PATTERN CLUES

Look at how each term changes: add, subtract, double or repeat?
Check your rule on every term, not just the first two.

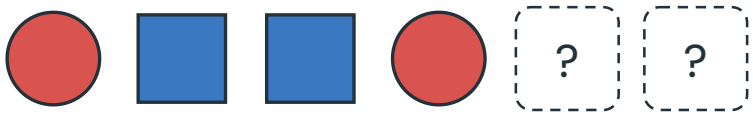
Worked example Rule: add 2 each time. 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 …

1. Add 3 each time: 4, 7, 10, _____, _____

2. Double each time: 2, 4, 8, _____, _____

3. Subtract 5 each time: 30, 25, _____, _____, 10

4. Rule: red circle, blue square, blue square, then repeat. Draw and name the next two shapes.



5. A friend says the number after 2, 4 must be 6. Explain why we need to know the rule.

6. Start at 2 and add 4 each time. Write the first five numbers.

7. Start at 40 and subtract 3 each time: 40, _____, _____, _____

Grown-up tip If your child is unsure, say the pattern aloud together and clap on each new term.

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Answers for grown-ups

The missing pattern rule. Check together and praise good thinking. Open answers say what to look for.

1. 13, 16
2. 16, 32
3. 20, 15
4. Blue square, blue square
5. Add 2 gives 6, but double gives 8: two numbers do not show the rule
6. 2, 6, 10, 14, 18
7. 37, 34, 31

Where this page comes from

This activity is page 14 of Puzzle & Story Detectives (ages 7–9), a printed Tiny Tots Play workbook.

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