



Computers work best when things are on or off. Computers have only two numerals, zero and one. (*Poor computers!*)

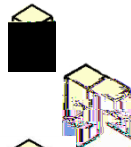


We call numbers with only zero and one . The “bi” in binary means *two*, like the two wheels on a cycle. We call each place a *bit*, short for *binary digit* .

Binary numbers also have places, but they’re *times two* places.

Ones place: One stands alone and starts every system of numbers

Twos place: Two times one



Fours place: Two times two



Eights place: Two times four



What’s next? \_\_\_\_\_

Each place is two times the one before it. We say this is a number system because we multiply by two to get to the next place.

Using this system, we can count as high as we want. We just keep adding more places on the left.

Arrange your cards like this. How many dots are showing?

0 1 1 0 1

One One No One  
four twos one



Write your age in years \_\_\_\_\_

Put your binary cards on the desk, with “one” on the right, then two, four, eight, and sixteen. Starting at the left, turn cards over to take away dots until the number of dots is the same as your age in years. Turn a card over when the total number of dots on the left is more than your age.

Write a 1 for every card that is face up and a 0 for every card that’s face down \_\_\_\_\_

Write the day of the month of your birth \_\_\_\_\_

Put your binary cards on the desk, with “one” on the right. Turn cards over to take away dots until the number of dots is the same as the day of your birth.

Write a 1 for every card that is face up and a 0 for every card that’s face down \_\_\_\_\_

With the cards you have, you can show up to 31 dots, and so make binary numbers up to 31. (The binary number for 31 is all cards facing up: 1 1 1 1 1.)

Dr. Brown is much older than 31 years! To show his age, you need two more cards.

How many dots will be on the one after sixteens? \_\_\_\_\_

How many dots will be on the next one after that? \_\_\_\_\_

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Starting at the right (ones place) put three cards up and the next two down.

How many dots are showing? \_\_\_\_\_

Turn the next card up. How many dots are on it? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the difference between the two numbers? \_\_\_\_\_

How many total dots do you have now? \_\_\_\_\_

Turn the last card up. How many dots are on it? \_\_\_\_\_

What can you say about the dots on any card and the total number of dots on the cards to the right of it? \_\_\_\_\_