

The tune is original (in the words of Ernie Wise: "It is one what I wrote!") and uses a falling melody to mirror the idea of counting back/down. The notes have been indicated by letters to allow you to use a glockenspiel, xylophone or keyboard to play the melody. The tune is in the key of C major which means that no sharps or flats are used (the black keys on a piano keyboard).

If you are counting back as just numerals then we would use the expression 'less' however if we are specifically talking about items then we use the expression 'fewer'.

Melody (with rhythmic variation where needed):

G G G E E E D  
F F F F E D C  
G G G E E E D  
D F F E D C

Ten cubes and one fewer are nine.

Nine cubes and one fewer are eight.

Eight cubes and one fewer are seven.

Now we're feeling great!

Seven cubes and one fewer are six.

Six cubes and one fewer are five.

Five cubes and one fewer are four.

Let's do a little bit more!

Four cubes and one fewer are three.

Three cubes and one fewer are two.

Two cubes and one fewer is one.

One cube and one fewer is none!

One less than ten is nine.

One less than nine is eight.

One less than eight is seven.

Now we're feeling great!

One less than seven is six.

One less than six is five.

One less than five is four.

Let's do a little bit more!

One less than four is three.

One less than three is two.

One less than two is one.

One less than one is none!

Zero!

Get the children to show you each number with their fingers that show the amount as the song is sung. Then show them how to hold a finger down to indicate that one fewer finger is being shown. As you repeat the song over a series of days, show the concept of adding one more with other models and images including towers of cubes and different items in a set. Show the 'counting back' and 'counting down' by using number lines, number squares and number tracks etc.

There is video on my YouTube channel (SharonDay Maths) so let me teach your children for you. I hope that you all enjoy it.