

# NiE



## Did you know?

- ★ The number four is the only number that has the same number of letters in it.
- ★ The number two is the only number greater than zero that when added to or multiplied by itself gives you the same result.

### NUMBER KNOW-HOW

#### Numbers in news

IN EVERY newspaper, numbers are used to tell stories about world and local events, sports scores, weather forecasts and business transactions.

Many stories in the news use numbers and statistics to inform readers in more detail about what is happening and why.

The numbers journalists and reporters gather as part of their work add a powerful tool to their storytelling toolbox as the numbers help them to build a more informative story.

They also use statistics in their news stories to support the ideas they are trying to get across to their readers.

Advertisements also use numbers to communicate with potential buyers.

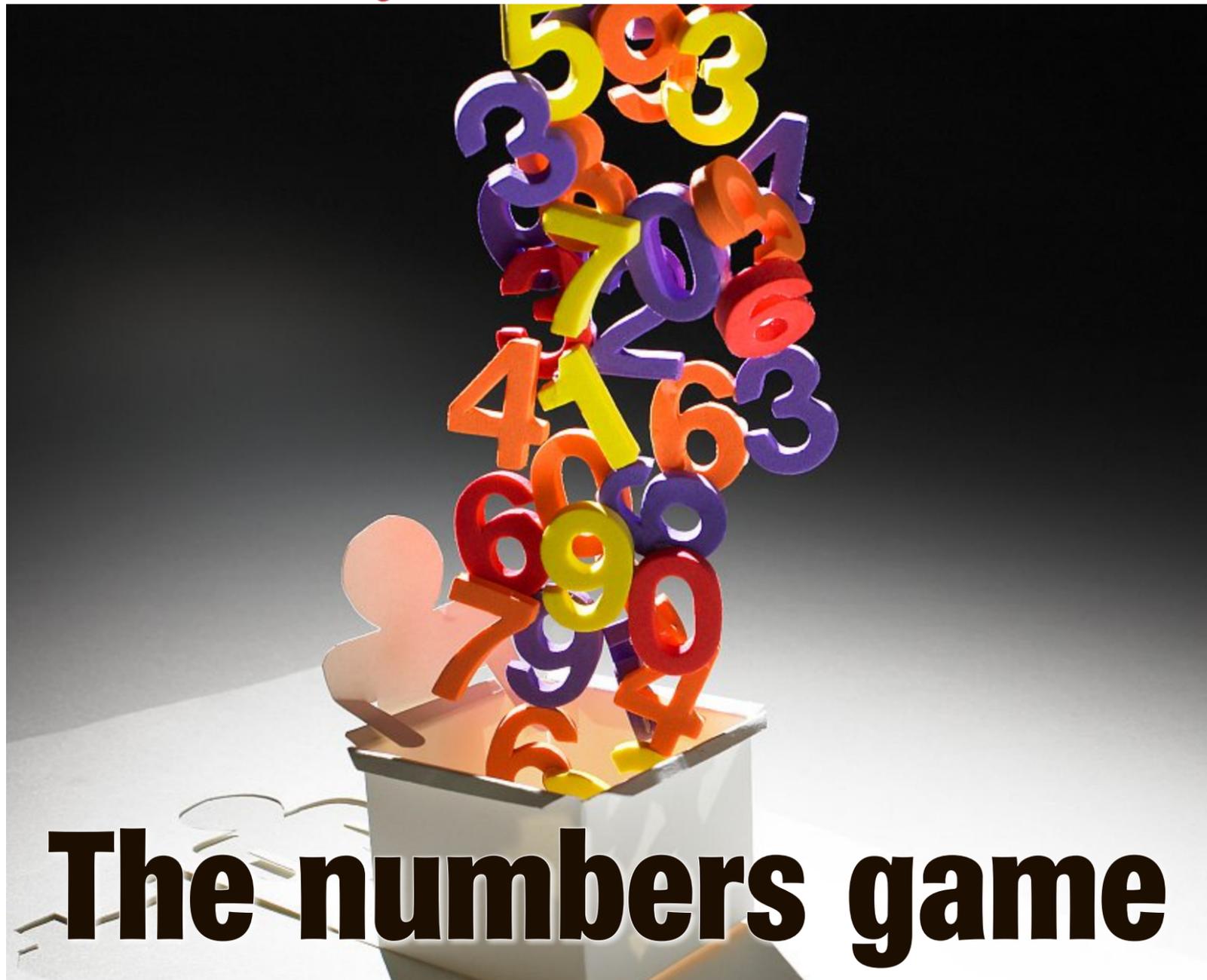
**TRY THIS**  
FROM the newspaper find an example of the different ways numbers are used in stories:

- ages; dates; times;
- prices; scores;
- weather; fractions;
- addresses; puzzles; TV guide; percentages;
- measurements; a number over 100; a number below 10; a telephone number.

Can you find an example of another way a number is used?

### FAST FACTS

- 14,000** Australians are waiting for an organ transplant
- 9 in 10** families agree to donate when the deceased is a registered donor
- 82%** of Australians believe registration is important
- 34%** of those aged 16+ are on the Donor Register



# The numbers game

THE 10 symbols, digits, numbers we all learn early in life, influence our lives in far more ways than we could ever imagine.

What would our lives be like without the 10 numerals and the infinite array of other numbers they create?

Birth dates, ages, height, addresses, telephone numbers, licence plate numbers, road speed signs, radio station numbers, time, years, sports scores, prices, the list could go on and on.

**The stories numbers tell**  
In mathematics there is an entire field dedicated to getting answers out of numbers. It is called statistics – the facts and figures

that are collected and examined for information on a given subject. Statistics can assist in making good decisions by helping identify, study and solve a variety of problems.

People in varied occupations, from governments, financial companies, opinion-polling firms, social researchers, news organisations, health professionals, weather forecasters, engineers, scientists to economists, use the numbers statistics provide to perform their job.

★ Find a story or feature in the newspaper that uses statistics. How are they used? Do you think they are used appropriately? Do you think they are misleading?

#### Beware

The statement, "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics." attributed to Benjamin Disraeli, refers to the persuasive power of numbers, the use of statistics to bolster weak arguments and the tendency of people to misuse statistics.

Numbers are a powerful tool but beware when using them in statistics – they're not always clear and accurate.

Numerical data can be manipulated or modified to support a particular viewpoint.

We are led to believe numbers are unquestionably correct but errors, bias and differing interpretation of results can produce unreliable outcomes.

#### FACTS & FIGURES

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is our country's official statistical organisation. The ABS provides key figures on a wide range of economic, population, environmental and social issues, to assist governments, businesses and community organisations to make informed decisions. The Census of Population and Housing (Census) is Australia's largest statistical collection undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). In 2016, the Census counted close to 10 million dwellings and approximately 24 million people. [www.abs.gov.au/](http://www.abs.gov.au/)

## TOMORROW: The numbers game – Part 3

# IS YOUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY MINDED?



To find out how your business can help provide an educational resource to your local schools contact at The Chronicle on **4690 9434** and become a part of our community minded program.



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