

# Tally Chart Practice

## Curriculum References

HD1/E3.1	Extract numerical information from lists, tables, diagrams and simple charts.
HD1/E3.3	Make observations and record numerical information using a tally.
HD1/E3.4	Organize and represent information in different ways so that it makes sense to others.

## Contributor Notes

The inspiration for this resource came as a result of the experiences of an Entry 3 student who was struggling with the concept of the tally chart and needed practice for the Entry 3 Numeracy City and Guilds paper. Asking her to collect numerical data for herself was difficult due to the set up at the Training Centre (coupled with confidence issues). I needed a means to help the student practise recording data onto a tally.

In today's 'information overload' society it is always important to find examples which apply to individuals in relation to their vocational leanings. Otherwise the possibilities become endless and mind boggling.

The activities on page 6 are differentiated according to ability and vocational area. I think that number 5 is particularly challenging.

I would follow this session with one on bar graphs so the completed activities could be kept with this aim in mind.

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**THANK YOU**

## What is a tally chart?

### Objective


You are going to practise drawing tally charts.

A tally chart is a quick and simple way of recording information.

Tally marks are drawn to keep an accurate count of the data that is being collected.

The tally marks are sometimes called a five bar gate because they look like this.



Day	Tally of Phone Calls 
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	

Here are two examples of tally charts.

Movie	Tally	Total
1st Favourite		
2nd Favourite		
3rd Favourite		
4th Favourite		
5th Favourite		

### Drawing the chart

To draw a five bar gate for a tally you draw 4 vertical lines (tally marks). The fifth line is drawn diagonally across these 4 lines. This makes counting up the total number of lines easy. You count up in fives - presuming you know your five times table!

### Tips on how to draw a tally chart

- A good tally chart shows the information clearly.
- A good tally chart has columns and headings.
- A good tally chart has lines to show numbers and a total number to show the frequency.
- A good tally chart is followed by a graph or a short sentence describing what the tally chart shows.



## When would you use a tally chart and why?

Tally charts can be completed in real time. The information can be recorded while you are busy with other things.

Let's say you work in a visitor centre or at a customer service desk. You need to record the number of visitors on your shift. With a tally chart this can be recorded quickly and easily and the information can be interpreted at the end of the day. You can then write a report on the information or present the data in a different form such as a graph or bar chart.

### Activity A



Your employer may ask you to keep a record of information in the office or at your place of work.

Can you think of what kind of information you might be asked to record?

Discuss this in your group and record your ideas here.

Some suggestions have already been written for you.

#### Please record

- The number of phone calls there are in one week.
- The number of cups of coffee made in a week.
- The number of visitors there are in one week - mornings and afternoons
- How many pairs of socks were sold this week.
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## Activity B



You are on a bus trip and you want to keep your child occupied.  
 You decide to keep a tally chart of passing vehicles.  
 This is your tally chart.

	Red Cars	Buses	Motorbikes	Lorries	Blue cars
	### //	### ###	###	### ////	### ### ### //
Total (frequency)					



Write the totals in the columns.

Remember each five bar gate counts as five. Count up the groups of fives first then add on any individual tally marks.



Now write some statements about the information on the chart.  
 Some statements have already been written.

### Some statements about the tally chart

- We saw seven red cars.
- There were more blue cars than red cars
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## Activity C

Now it's your turn to draw a tally chart

You work in a Chinese Take Away. The owner wants you to keep a record of meals sold in one night. Put this information on to a tally chart.

Meal	How many
Chicken Fried Rice	12
Chicken Chop Suey	13
Prawn Crackers	23
Beef & Black Bean sauce	16
Fried Chicken with Pineapple	14

Use the chart below to complete the tally. Remember the tips (page 2).




Now write some statements about the information.



Some statements about the tally chart

- 
- 
- 
- 
-

## Further activities

Well done! You have now learnt the basics of tally charts.

Try some of these activities to practise your new skills. You can adapt the questions to fit your own job or situation.



1. You have been to see your doctor. The doctor has advised you to give up smoking. You have no idea how many cigarettes you smoke a day. **Keep a tally of how many cigarettes you smoke in one week.**



2. Make a list of 5 of last night's TV programmes. Ask some students or friends which programmes they watched. **Record the information in a tally chart. Which programme was the most popular?**



3. There are 18 people working in the office. The boss is concerned about the amount of sugar being used each week. **He asks you to record how much sugar is being used.**  
*Tip - you will need to record how many spoons of sugar each person takes and how many cups of tea or coffee they consume.*



4. You are working in a supermarket. You have been put in charge of the toothpaste shelves. **Make a tally chart of how many tubes of the different brands of toothpaste are sold in one week. Which is the most popular brand?**



5. You are operating the fork lift truck this week. You have to move pallets from one bay to another. **Keep a tally of how many pallets you move in one week.**  
*Tip - you work half days on Wednesday and Friday. The average number of pallets moved on a good day is 500. These are in batches of 50*



6. You are working in a shoe shop for a week before Christmas. Your employer has asked you to record the most popular colour of shoe sold. **Record the information on a tally chart and present a short report at the end of the week.**



7. The manager of a charity shop needs to know how the stock is moving. She asks you to record how many different types of clothes are sold during the week. **Record the information on a tally and present a short report.**



8. Record the number of different seedlings planted in one day at the nursery where you work. **Present the results to the head gardener.**