Name: _____ Date: _____

# Odd on the Left, Even on the Right

Circle group

No one notices a house number until it is missing. Picture an ambulance on a dark street with no signs. Or a pizza driver going around the block for the third time. A small system of names and numbers keeps rescue workers, mail carriers, and guests from getting lost.

In most American towns, house numbers follow a pattern. The numbers get bigger as you move away from the center of town. Houses on one side of a street are usually odd. Houses across from them are even. Once you know the rule, you can guess which side a house is on before you see it. Some cities also number the streets in a grid. If you know Tenth Street and Fourth Avenue, you can guess where you are without a map.

Local governments make the rules and keep the records. When a builder makes a new neighborhood, a planning office gives out the addresses. It also checks the street names people suggest. Many counties avoid using a name twice. Two roads named Maple Lane in one county could confuse a dispatcher who must send help in seconds.

Names also carry history. A street may honor a founder, a landmark, a tree, or an old farm. Some towns let residents suggest names for new roads. That is one small way to leave a mark on a place.

Next time you walk home, look at the numbers on the doors. They remind us that a community works best when it agrees on simple rules.

## Questions

**1. What usually happens to house numbers as you move away from the center of town?**

_____

_____

**2. On most streets, how are the odd and even numbers arranged?**

_____

_____

**3. Who gives out addresses for a new neighborhood?**

_____

_____

**4. Why might a county avoid using the same street name twice?**

_____

_____

**5. How do numbered grid streets help someone with no map?**

_____

_____

**6. What can street names honor?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

dispatcher: a person who sends emergency workers where they are needed
grid: a pattern of straight lines that cross each other
landmark: a well known building or place that is easy to recognize

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

# Odd on the Left, Even on the Right

Triangle group

Nobody notices a house number until the day it is missing. Imagine an ambulance searching a dark street for a house with no sign, or a pizza driver circling the block for the third time. A small system of names and numbers quietly keeps emergency workers, mail carriers, and visitors from getting lost.

In most American towns, the numbering follows a pattern. Numbers rise as you travel away from the center of town, and houses on one side of a street are usually odd while those across from them are even. Once you learn the rule, you can guess which side of the road a house is on before you see it. Some cities also number streets in a grid, so that a person who knows Tenth Street and Fourth Avenue can estimate where they are without a map.

Local governments set these rules and keep the records. When a developer builds a new neighborhood, a planning office assigns the addresses and reviews proposed street names. Many counties avoid repeating a name already used nearby. Two roads called Maple Lane in the same county could confuse a dispatcher who must send help in seconds.

Names carry history too. Streets may honor a founder, a local landmark, a tree, or a farm that once stood there. Some communities invite residents to suggest names for new roads, which is one small way to leave a mark on the place.

Next time you walk home, look at the numbers on the doors. They are a quiet reminder that a community works best when it agrees on simple rules and follows them.

## Questions

**1. What usually happens to house numbers as you travel away from the center of town?**

_____

_____

**2. On most streets, which side of the road has the odd numbers?**

_____

_____

**3. Who assigns addresses for a new neighborhood?**

_____

_____

**4. Why might a county avoid using the same street name twice?**

_____

_____

**5. How do numbered grid streets help a person who has no map?**

_____

_____

**6. What can street names honor?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

dispatcher: a person who sends emergency workers where they are needed
grid: a pattern of straight lines that cross each other
developer: a person or company that builds new homes or buildings
landmark: a well known building or place that is easy to recognize
estimate: to make a careful guess about an amount or place

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

# Odd on the Left, Even on the Right

Square group

Hardly anyone pays attention to a house number until the day it goes missing. Imagine an ambulance searching a darkened street for a house without any sign, or a pizza driver circling the block for the third time. A modest system of names and numbers quietly prevents emergency workers, mail carriers, and visitors from becoming hopelessly lost.

In most American towns, the numbering follows a recognizable pattern. Numbers increase as you travel away from the center of town, and the houses on one side of a street are generally odd while those directly opposite are even. Once you have learned the rule, you can predict which side of the road a house stands on before you actually see it. Certain cities additionally number their streets in a grid, so that a person who knows Tenth Street and Fourth Avenue can estimate their location without consulting a map.

Local governments establish these rules and maintain the records. When a developer constructs a new neighborhood, a planning office assigns the addresses and reviews the proposed street names. Many counties avoid repeating a name that is already in use nearby, since two roads called Maple Lane within the same county could bewilder a dispatcher who has only seconds to send help.

Names carry history as well. Streets may commemorate a founder, a local landmark, a species of tree, or a farm that once occupied the site. Some communities invite residents to propose names for new roads, which offers one small way of leaving a mark upon the place.

The next time you walk home, observe the numbers on the doors. They serve as a quiet reminder that a community functions best when its members agree upon simple rules and follow them.

## Questions

**1. What usually happens to house numbers as you travel away from the center of town?**

_____

_____

**2. On most streets, how are odd and even numbers arranged?**

_____

_____

**3. Who assigns addresses for a new neighborhood?**

_____

_____

**4. Why might a county avoid repeating a street name?**

_____

_____

**5. In what way do numbered grid streets help a person without a map?**

_____

_____

**6. What may street names commemorate?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

dispatcher: a person who sends emergency workers where they are needed
grid: a pattern of straight lines that cross each other
developer: a person or company that builds new homes or buildings
landmark: a well known building or place that is easy to recognize
estimate: to make a careful guess about an amount or place

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

# For the teacher: Odd on the Left, Even on the Right

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

### Circle: Odd on the Left, Even on the Right

Easier · 252 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.7

1. They get bigger.
2. One side has odd numbers and the side across from it has even numbers.
3. A planning office, which also checks the street names.
4. A dispatcher could be confused and send help to the wrong place.
5. They can guess where they are from the street and avenue numbers.
6. A founder, a landmark, a tree, or an old farm.

### Triangle: Odd on the Left, Even on the Right

This passage · 268 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.7

1. They get larger.
2. One side has odd numbers and the opposite side has even numbers.
3. A planning office, which also reviews proposed street names.
4. A dispatcher could be confused and send help to the wrong place.
5. They can estimate where they are from the street and avenue numbers.
6. A founder, a landmark, a tree, or an old farm.

### Square: Odd on the Left, Even on the Right

Harder · 288 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 10.2

1. They increase.
2. One side has odd numbers and the opposite side has even numbers.
3. A planning office, which also reviews the proposed street names.
4. A dispatcher could be bewildered and send help to the wrong place.
5. They can estimate their location from the street and avenue numbers.
6. A founder, a local landmark, a species of tree, or a farm that once stood there.