

It's all a numbers game

1 "Why was the maths book sad? Because it had too many problems."

This joke is a classic example that plays on the dual meaning of the word "problem". In maths, a problem is usually a question that requires a solution. However, in everyday language, a problem can also refer to a difficulty or challenge.

Chan Pak-ching, 15, CNEC Christian College

Last week, our readers had a crack at the question: "What is the best maths joke you have ever heard?" From the blank answer sheet to the 'sad' maths book, here are their answers

6 The one about calculating the volume of a pizza. If you have a pizza with radius z and thickness (height) a , its volume is $\pi z^2 a$, which is the exact spelling of the word.

Hanson Lam Lok-him, 14, Christian Alliance S.C. Chan Memorial College

2 "Never argue with a 90° angle; it is always right."

In Secondary Two, students learn about the angles in a triangle. Our maths teacher thought this subject was a little boring so she decided to tell a joke. She said we should never argue with a right angle (which is equal to 90°), because it is never "wrong". When we heard this joke, some of us just rolled our eyes, but some burst out laughing, like I did.

Jane Tong King-ku, 13, Christian Alliance S.C. Chan Memorial College

3 I love the classic, "Why was six afraid of seven? Because seven eight (ate) nine!" But I like the extended version even more.

"Why is six afraid of seven? Because seven eight nine! But why did seven eat nine? Because you're supposed to eat three square meals a day!"

Sophia Ling, 11, German Swiss International School

4 Lunchtime starts at 11.30am. Tom is hungry and does not want to be in class. He is sitting in his seat but he is thinking about beef and bread. His maths teacher notices he is distracted and asks, "What would happen if the decimal of 1.130 moved one place to the right?"

"That would be lunch!" Tom answers without hesitation.

Ivan Wen Tsz-lok, 13, Christian Alliance S.C. Chan Memorial College

5 "An opinion without 3.14 is just an onion". The mathematical constant "Pi" equals approximately 3.14. So if you remove the "pi" from a Pi-nion, you are left with "onion".

Rachel Lui Wing-lam, 15, Wesley College



7 A mum asks her son: "You have been in school for three months now. Which is easier, mathematics or Chinese?" The boy says: "I think mathematics is easier." The mum asks, "Why?" The son answers:

"Because there are thousands and thousands of Chinese characters, but in mathematics, there are only 10 digits [0-9]."

Leung Miu-ling, 13, Ho Yu College and Primary School (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen)

8 "Do you know what seems odd to me? Numbers that cannot be divided by two."

When I first heard this joke, I did not get it. But when I finally understood it, I laughed for a long time because it was so silly.

Cherie Choi Tsz-ching, 16, Tak Nga Secondary School

9 Q: Why is your answer sheet blank?

A: Because the answers are imaginary numbers!

Chan Lok-chi, 15, Pui Kiu College

10 Why shouldn't you eat too much pie? You'll end up with a large circumference. As a foodie, that is a good joke since you will end up being quite chubby if you eat a lot.

Yoyo Ko Ka-tung, 15, Tak Nga Secondary School

The Hang Lung Mathematics Awards (HLMA) encourages secondary students to unleash their creativity in the subject and ignite their passion for intellectual discovery. We are asking a total of five questions to inspire you to think deeply about the power of mathematics, the importance of integrity, and the pursuit of excellence. Unleash your potential to make an impact on the world!



This week's question: If you could change one thing in maths, what would it be and why?

Scan the QR code to submit your response, or email us at ygpost@youngpost.com.hk by 12pm on May 31

