

MathsSpeak' 2014

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The Beginning

Are you sure you did it right ?

The problem?

Why is even well educated people understand so little about mathematics?

- Maths positioned as the “gatekeeper” of success and failure
- Learners find it too abstract and cannot relate to
- Not linked to everyday maths
- Lack of interest

Consequences ?

- Adult Innumeracy - How big is the issue?

Examples :

- Difficulty reading analog clocks
- Difficulty stating which of two numbers is larger
- Inability to comprehend financial planning or budgeting, sometimes even at a basic level

for example, estimating the cost of the items in a shopping basket or balancing a checkbook, Fuel required for traveling any distance etc

The Misconceptions

- Maths is essential a matter of computation
- Maths is strictly hierarchical
- Maths is not “story telling”
- Parental influence “ I am not good with numbers”

The learner perspective

- Fear of the maths teacher
- Lack of Interest and Initiative
- Rote learning
- Need formulas

The brain tricks

Fact : People are bad at computation !

- Salience
- Discounting
- Framing
- Defaults
- Intuitions

What can we do differently?

- Make maths teaching more activity driven
- Pedagogy changes
- Embed Maths in other subjects as well
- Recognize “Dyscalculia”
- Make numeracy a must have skill for all trades

What are we doing?

- Encourage Maths as an important subject of learning at school levels.
- Encourage teachers to innovate in class delivery
- Learning outside the classroom
- Integrate Maths learning to other subjects



Questions?