This game involves creating simple equations while keeping a balloon in the air. Ask for two volunteers to help you demonstrate the game before dividing the class into small groups to play it.

Explain that the object of the game is to keep the balloon in the air as long as possible. When the balloon touches a person’s body, the person either counts or creates an equation.

For example, if one person touches the balloon and says “2”, the next person to touch the balloon could say any number of things, such as “3”, or “plus 3 = 5”, or “minus 1 = 1”. Have students mix counting, addition, and subtraction.

After demonstrating a few examples with the volunteers, divide the class into groups of 3 or 4 and pass out a blown-up balloon to each group.

**VARIATION**: Students capable of additional challenge should be instructed to mix simple multiplication and division equations into the game.