

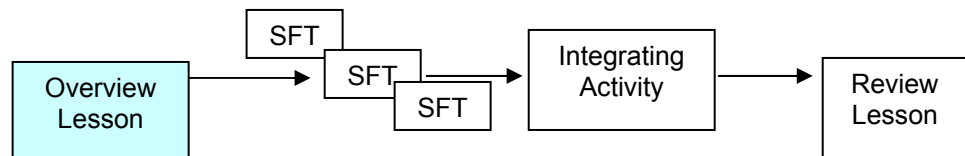
Learning objective: I can.....

Lesson 1 of 4

PoS 1a, 1b,  
1c, 3a

Understand the possible effect of a mistake

QCA Unit: 5C



## Resources

### Software you could use:

None needed

### Support files:

School data.pdf

## Setting the scene (5 mins)

Share the learning objective with the class. Explain that this unit is about finding things out and spend a minute or two reminding the children about the work they have previously done in Units 3c and 4c. Ask the children what might happen if someone made a mistake when they were writing an address on an envelope. Why would it be important to make sure the address is correctly written?

## Main Input (10 mins)

Now explain that databases on computers contain information and sometimes there are mistakes in the information. Ask the children if they can think of any databases that might hold information about them. Possible answers might include, their doctor or a hospital, a friend's mobile phone, a club they belong to, a relative's address book. Ask the children to identify what kind of data each of the examples might contain. Explain that the school has a database containing information about them.

## Activity – short focused task (15 mins)

Use the first page of the school data file to make several copies of the cards. Give the cards to the children and ask them to choose which item of information might be kept on the school database. They may suggest that all the items could be on a database, especially one about themselves that might be used in the classroom. Explain that they have to identify the information that the school office needs to keep. In this case only some of the items would be used.

Once the children have sorted the cards into two groups ask them to explain why they made their choices. Then ask why the school would want to keep that information. What is important about it? Follow this with a discussion about the effect of a mistake in the database, e.g. the wrong address or the wrong date of birth. Finally ask the children to record their answers on the sheet on page two of the school data file.

## Review and recall (5 mins)

Bring the class together and review the learning objective. Explain that they have begun to think about the effects of mistakes in a database and how important it is to make sure that the data is correct. Explain that in the next few lessons they are going to learn how mistakes affect the outcome of database searches, how to identify mistakes and decide what to do to correct them.

# Who's looking at me? (continued)

Finding things out

Year 5

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**Key questions to ask and to display:**

Why is a mistake important?  
How can mistakes be avoided?

**Vocabulary:**

Database, field, data, record,  
Error, mistake, effect

**Teaching Points:**

You may wish to check with the school office about what data is held about each child. For the purposes of the lesson it is not necessary, nor appropriate, to use any confidential data such as special needs information. The information about their names, addresses and classes is sufficient.

**Assessment Opportunities:**

Use the beginning of the lesson to assess how much the children have remembered from their previous lessons about databases.

**What comes next:**

Exploring the effects of a mistake. Lesson 2 "What's wrong"