

Memes sprinkling fun in sci-math teaching

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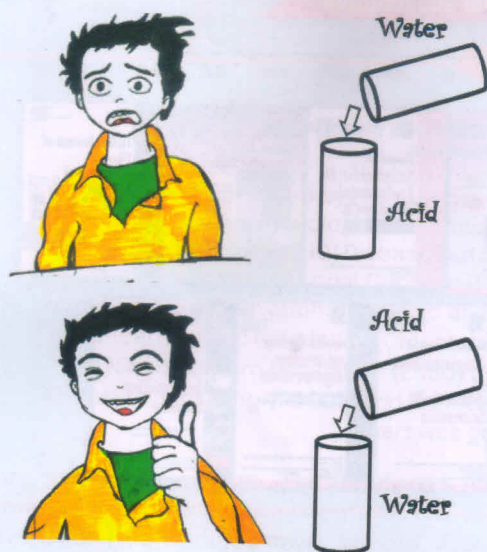


Image 1

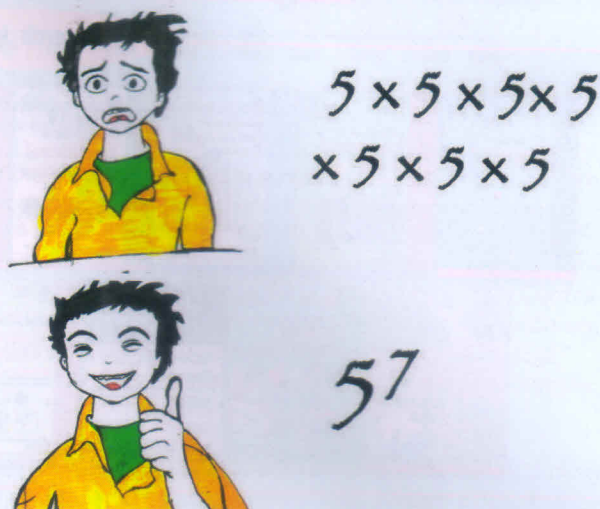


Image 2

DIGITAL media has become an integral part of our daily lives. Our smartphone messages and social media platforms are full of memes or images with a pun. During the past half-decade, the internet has led to the spread of meme culture, and almost all social platforms, videos and shorts are full of memes which reflect a satirical aspect of daily life situations. Memes basically act as a metaphor to describe a situation, be it cricket results, political situation, news, educational concepts or classroom situations. You often find an element of pun, humour or satire. Not only do these bring out the humour element in the situation, but they also let the readers critically think and ponder over the situation. Though memes appear more frequently in depicting social and political situations, educators have also started studying memes to understand and enhance the classroom teaching and learning process. Some memes (images redrawn based on some viral memes) have been recreated here in the context of science and mathematics concepts.

Hope you have understood the message conveyed in both images (1 & 2). Image 1 highlights the most important precaution during a chemical experiment of mixing an acid with water. It is advised to always add acid to water, instead of dropping water into the acid. Perhaps, meme (Image 1)

warns you about the consequences, and conveys a message that those who add acid to water are smart and cool. Likewise, the second meme (Image 2) offers you a cool and smarter way of expressing 5 multiplied by itself seven times.

There can be two aspects of interpreting these memes. Firstly, where some pre-requisite knowledge of sci-math concepts is required, and secondly, where the picture/animation or expression of characters lets you decode the concept. So, in the first aspect, if you have some knowledge of the concepts, then you can enjoy the humour and bring a lighter moment during the teaching-learning process. For example, you know 5 multiplied by itself can be written in the form of exponents, rather than writing 5 every time for the same value. If you go through the meme (Image 2), you enjoy this art of writing and expressing 5 seven times through the depiction of a character. In fact, writing 5 seven times or even more times can be a boring and irritating task, and this is the truth that the expression of character conveys to you. You relate yourself to this experience and laugh. If we see it through an alternative aspect, where one doesn't have much knowledge about concepts (such as the chemical reaction of water and acid), then the expression of the character in a meme (Image 1) helps one figure out the correct way of