

**Reading/writing and arithmetic:  
How societies become literate and numerate**

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Writing is presented as a system composed of brains, bodies, and material forms. The ways in which writing changes over time are highlighted, as these provide us with insight into change in ancient behaviors and brains in the historical development of writing. How and why numbers differ from other writing are reviewed. Finally, reading is analyzed as a cognitive system that necessarily involves a material form, the idea that cognition is extended and enactive.

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