# Using MakeCode **Arcade**

# **BRIDGE** COURSE



#### **TOPICS COVERED**

- What is a Traffic Light System?
- What is Coding?
- Searching for a Word in Dictionary
- MakeCode Arcade
- Types of Blocks Category
- Changing the Background
- Getting started with Block Coding
- Creating a Conversation Between Two Sprites in MakeCode Arcade
- What is a Bug?
- What are Variables?
- Using Logic Blocks

- Where Else do we See Applications of Coding?
- What is a Programming Language?
- Pseudocode
- Components of MakeCode Arcade Window
- Adding a Sprite
- Commonly used Blocks in MakeCode Arcade
- What is an Event?
- Using Math Blocks

In your day to day life, you must have come across the term 'coding'. Have you wondered what it means. In this chapter, you are going to learn what is coding and its usage in day to day life.

# What is a Traffic Light System? 🔨

While going to school, you must have seen a traffic light.

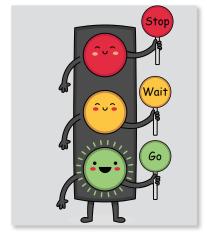
Traffic lights are devices that control traffic through the use of colours. These lights are placed at road intersections and pedestrian crossings for smooth traffic flow.

### **How do Traffic Lights Work?**

In a traffic light, the lights cycle through green (allows traffic to proceed in the direction denoted), yellow (warns that the signal is about to change to red), and red (stops traffic from proceeding) at regular intervals of time. Traffic lights help to prevent accidents and congestion on the roads.

### How do the Traffic Lights Change Automatically?

Traffic lights contain sensors which are programmed to calculate how many cars or pedestrians are present at a specific point.



At regular intervals of time, the code automatically changes the traffic signals to show colors (red, yellow, green).

#### Do You Know?

John Peake Knight invented the first traffic light, after that William Potts invented the modern three-lens traffic light and Garrett Morgan invented the first automatic traffic light.

# Where Else do We See Applications of Coding? 📜

These days, a lot of our daily lives rely on coding. We are somehow connected through coding. For example, smartphones, computers, videogames, car dashboards, etc., are all using some sort of code to perform their tasks.







Bar code scanner

Booking tickets

Printer







Thermostat



Video games

# What is Coding? 🔨

Coding or programming is the process of creating codes to instruct a computer to perform a specific task. There can be more than one way to solve the problem; similarly, there are many ways to write code for the same task.





Let see an example:

When you play video on your smartphone. Your smartphone will act as a computer which needs to be instructed (in this instructions will be given by the application which plays the video) at each and every step on what to be done. The application playing the video provides this instruction via programming language.

#### Do You Know?

The first programmer or the first person to write our modern understanding of a program was Ada Lovelace.



### What is a Programming Language?

Language is the primary means of communication for all human interactions. In the same way, to interact with computers, you need a language which the computer understands and is called a **programming language**.

To communicate with computer, programmers use computer language which is known as programming language. So, programming language can be defined as a set of instructions which are written in any specific computer language to perform a set of activities.

Programming languages have syntax. Syntax is the same as grammar in any language.

The **syntax** is a set of rules that we need to follow when we write a computer program. Every programming language has its own syntax. But programming languages will eventually be converted into a language which computer will understand.

Examples of programming languages are C, C++, C#, Python, PHP, Java, JavaScript, R, etc.

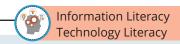


#### Do You Know?

**Kautilya Katariya** from the UK is a Guinness World Record holder to take up programming at the age of 6.







Give one word answer to the following questions:

- o 1. Name the set of rules to be followed while writing a computer program.
  - 2. Name the instructions which are given to a computer to perform a set of activities.

# Searching for a Word in Dictionary 🔭

A dictionary is a book which contains words and phrases in an alphabetical order, with their meanings. Many times, while reading a book you may come across a word whose meaning you don't know. So how do you find out the meaning of the word?

You will find the meaning of the word by using a **dictionary**. But when you open a dictionary you see, there are many words in a dictionary. So how do you find that particular word in the dictionary? Let's see an example of how to find the word 'Orange' in a dictionary:

- 1. Find the dictionary section with the first letter of the word, 'o'.
- 2. Within the list of words starting with the first letter 'o', find the section having the second letter of the word 'r'.
- 3. You need to do this process again with the third letter 'a', fourth letter 'n', fifth letter 'g' and sixth letter 'e', until you finally reach the word 'orange' in the dictionary and then find its meaning.

So, to find the meaning of a particular word in a dictionary, you need to follow a set of steps. Similarly, before writing a program for a given problem, it is important to define a set of steps which need to be followed to solve the problem successfully. This sequence of the set of steps is called an algorithm.



### Do You Know?

The first computer game 'Spacewar' was created in 1961, by MIT programmer Steve Russell and his team.



Pseudocode is used to describe the steps of an algorithm in a human-understandable language. It has no syntax and can be easily understood by a layman. So, pseudocode is an informal way of writing programs in which there is no need to think about semi-colons, and curly brackets.

#### **Characteristics of Pseudocode**

- It uses structured English statements.
- It can be reviewed/verified easily to see if it generates the desired outcome.
- You can focus on all possible scenarios. So, this helps you to understand the potential problems that might come up later.
- Writing pseudocode will help to write your code much easier.

#### **Advantages of Pseudocode**

- It is language-independent and can be used by most programmers to express the design in plain and natural language.
- Programmers do not have to think about syntax, they simply have to concentrate on logic.
- The focus is on the steps to solving a problem rather than how to use the computer language.

**Example 1:** Write pseudocode to calculate profit and loss.

#### Solution:

```
Read CostPrice
Read SellingPrice
IF (SellingPrice >CostPrice ) THEN
    Profit = SellingPrice - CostPrice
    PRINT Profit
ELSE
    Loss= CostPrice - SellingPrice
    PRINT Loss
```

**Example 2:** Write pseudocode to print 'Above average marks' if the average marks in the three subjects are greater than 60 and 'Below average marks' if the average marks are less than or equal to 60.

#### Solution:

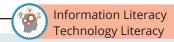
```
Read Eng_Marks
Read Math_Marks
Read Sci_Marks
Sum= Eng_Marks+Math_Marks+Sci_Marks
Avg_Marks = Sum / 3
IF (Avg_Marks > 60) THEN
    PRINT "Above Average marks"
ELSE
    PRINT "Below Average marks"
```

#### Do You Know?

American computer scientist 'Margaret Hamilton,' wrote the computer code which helped to save the Apollo moon landing mission.







Answer the following questions:

- 1. Which book contains words and phrases in an alphabetical order, with their meanings?
  - 2. What is used to describe the steps of an algorithm in a human-understandable language?

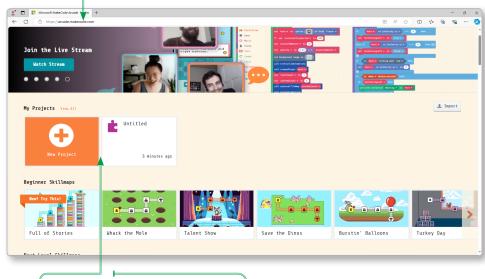
### MakeCode Arcade

MakeCode Arcade is a free, open-source, online integrated development environment (IDE) for game production. Drag-and-drop block programming is used in this user-friendly coding editor for beginners.

#### **Starting MakeCode Arcade**

To start MakeCode Arcade, follow the steps given below:

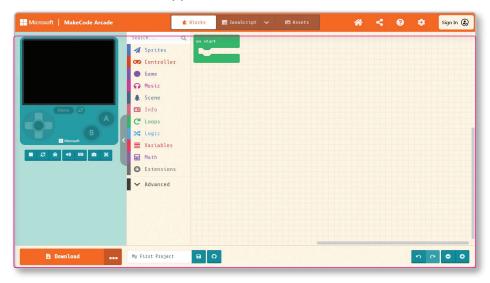
1 Open web browser and type https://arcade.makecode.com/ in the address bar and press the **enter** key.



2 Click on **New Project** button.

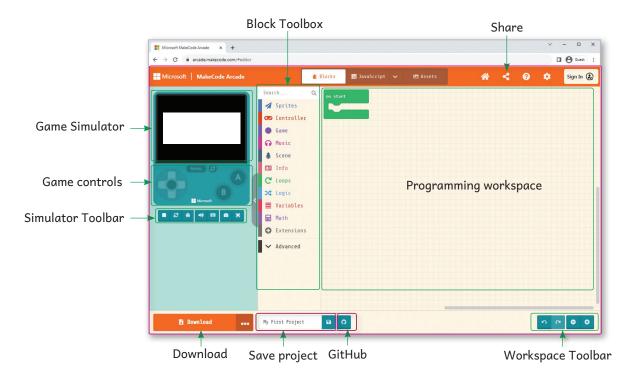


MakeCode Arcade editor window will appear on the screen.



## Components of MakeCode Arcade Window 🔭

Let us now learn about the components of MakeCode Arcade.

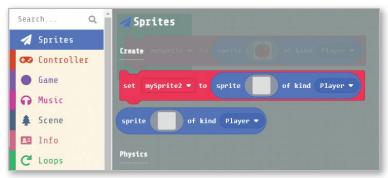


- **Block Toolbox:** The Toolbox is your source for all the necessary code elements to create your game. These elements are neatly categorised in drawers based on their functions and methods.
- **Programming workspace:** The workspace is your creative canvas, where you construct your game. You can grab blocks from the toolbox and place them where you need them. Blocks can be copied, moved, or customised once they're in the workspace.
- **Game Simulator:** Experience your game in action within a fully operational game board simulator. This feature lets you run, test, and debug your game's code.
- **Game Controls:** Take control of your game by moving your player character or activating various in-game functions through the use of buttons. You can also access the menu and restart your game from here.
- **Simulator Toolbar:** The Simulator Toolbar equips you with essential controls for your game simulation. You can run the game, pause it, restart it, enable debugging, and manage the game's display settings.
- **Save Project:** Secure your game project by saving it to a file with a name of your choice. This ensures that your progress is preserved.
- Workspace Toolbar: The workspace toolbar provides tools to undo or redo changes made to your code. It also allows you to zoom in or out to adjust your view of the code within the workspace.
- **Share:** Collaborate and showcase your game by sharing it in the cloud. You'll receive a shareable link to distribute to others.
- **Download:** When your game is ready for deployment, use this option to download your code to the arcade hardware for it to be played on a physical device.
- **GitHub:** Make a gaming project repository on GitHub.

# Types of Blocks Category 🔭

Beginners can program using block-based programming, which allows users to drag and drop code pieces into an editor. To program our games in MakeCode Arcade, we can use a variety of code blocks category, which are listed below:

• **Sprites Blocks:** These blocks allow you to create and define sprites, which represent objects within your game. Sprites can be anything from players and enemies to food items and projectiles.



 Controller Blocks: These blocks allow you to specify which buttons on the controller trigger specific actions. For example, you can assign button A to shoot arrows in your game.



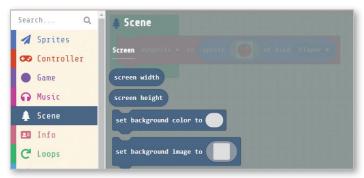
• **Game Blocks:** These blocks allow us to control the game's timeline and define win-or-lose conditions. They govern the overall flow and rules of your game.



 Music Blocks: These blocks allow you to enhance your game's experience by incorporating music and sound effects.



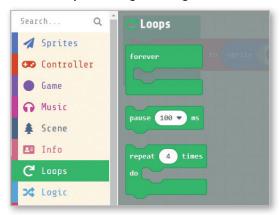
• **Scene Blocks:** These blocks help you to manage the game's background and screen dimensions, allowing you to customise the visual aspects of your game world.



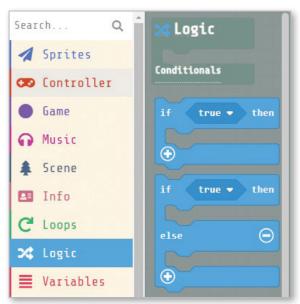
• **Info Blocks:** These blocks provide control over essential game elements such as score, lives, and the game clock.



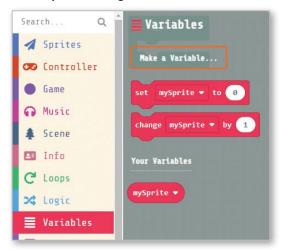
• **Loops Blocks:** These blocks allow you to repeatedly execute specific code blocks under different conditions, enabling you to create repetitive game logic.



• **Logic Blocks:** These blocks are used to implement conditional logic to control when specific code blocks execute based on certain conditions or criteria.



• Variable Blocks: These blocks allow you to create variables to store data, such as sprite velocity, allowing you to manage and manipulate in-game values.



• Math Blocks: These blocks allow us to perform various mathematical operations that can be used to modify variables and perform calculations within your game.



- Advanced Blocks: This block comprises a range of advanced functionalities, including:
- **Animation Blocks:** Create and edit sprite animations.
- Images Blocks: Design and edit graphics for both sprites and backgrounds.
- **Function Blocks:** Define custom functions that can be called within your programme.
- Array Blocks: Create lists of data for managing and storing information.
- **Text Blocks:** Generate strings, which can be used for creating character dialogue or speech bubbles.
- Console Blocks: Aid in debugging and troubleshooting errors in your program.
- Extension Blocks: Access additional block types, such as animations and other specialised functionalities, to expand your programming capabilities.

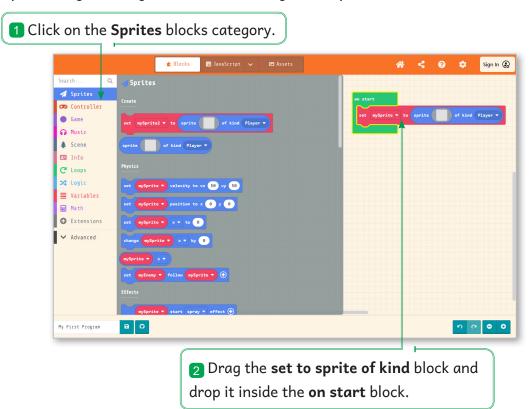


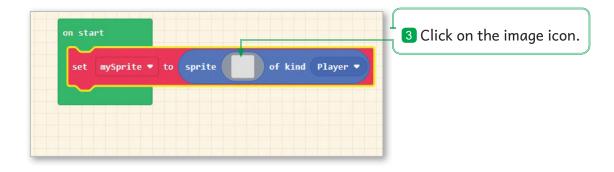
# Adding A Sprite

When you open MakeCode Arcade, there is no default sprite present. So, firstly, we need to add a sprite by choosing from two options, i.e., creating a new sprite using the image editor or using a built-in sprite from Gallery. Let us learn about both options.

#### Creating a sprite using the image editor

To create a sprite using the image editor, follow the given steps:

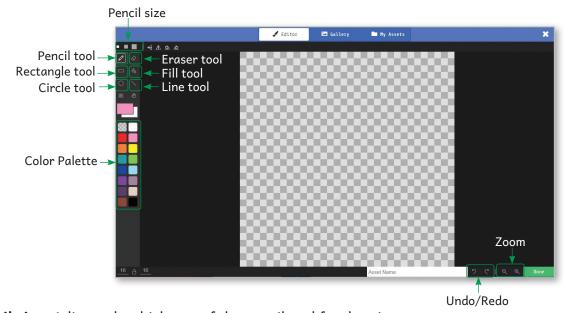




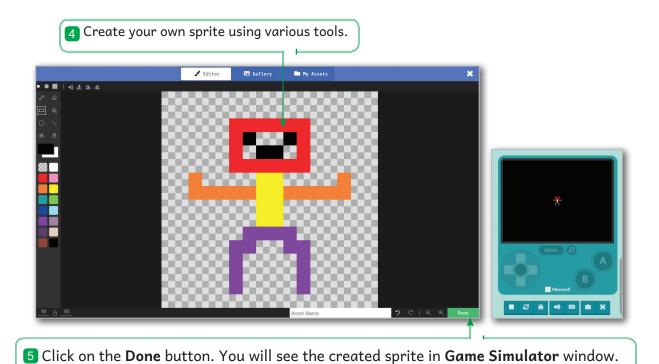
#### **Notes**

Clicking on image icon allow you to draw an image for your own sprite in image editor.

The image editor window will open. Let us understand some basic components of image editor window.

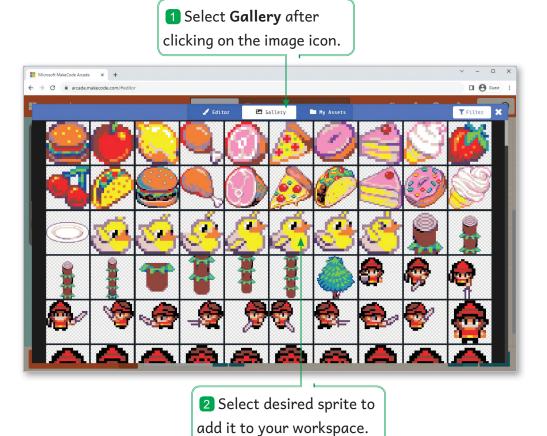


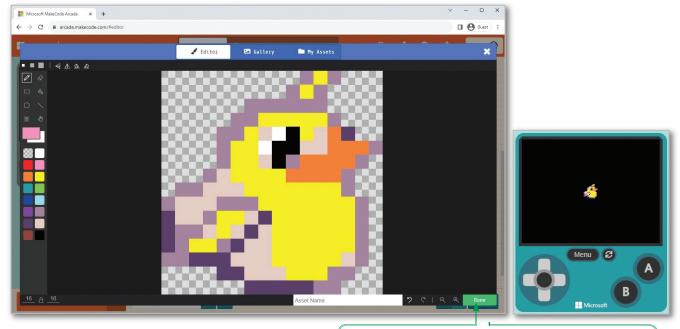
- **Pencil size:** Adjusts the thickness of the pencil tool for drawing.
- **Pencil tool:** Used for freehand drawing with adjustable stroke size.
- Rectangle tool: Creates rectangular shapes with specified dimensions.
- Circle tool: Draws circular shapes with adjustable radius.
- **Eraser tool:** Removes or erases parts of the image or drawing.
- **Fill tool:** Fills a selected area or shape with a solid color or pattern.
- Line tool: Draws straight lines between two points.
- Color Palette: Provides a range of colors to choose from for drawing and filling.
- Undo/Redo: Reverses or re-applies recent changes made to the image.
- **Zoom:** Adjusts the view size of the image for detailed editing or a broader view.



### Using built-in sprites from the gallery

To use built-in sprites from the gallery, follow the given steps:



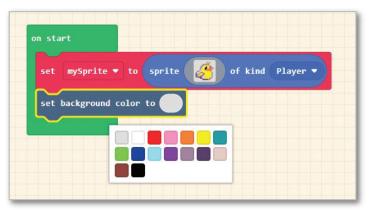


3 Click on the **Done** button. You will see the selected sprite in Game Simulator window.

# Changing the Background 🐛

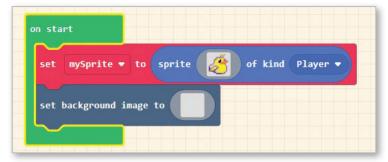
To change the background, we have two blocks in Scene blocks in MakeCode Arcade which are as follows:

1. **set background color to:** This block allows you to specify and change the background color of the screen in your game with 16 predefined colors.

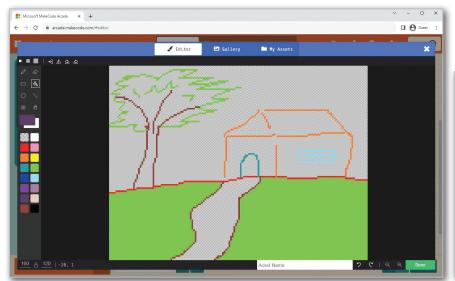




2. **set background image to:** This block allows you to select a built-in background or draw an image as the background in the Image editor.

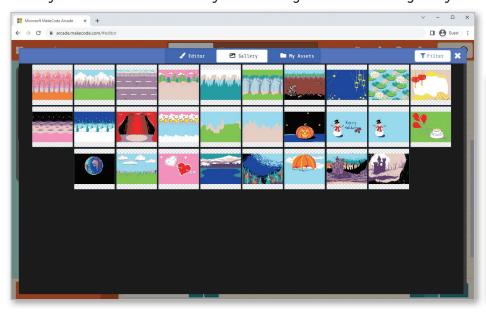


The process to create a background using the image editor is same as creating a sprite.





Or you can choose the readymade background from the gallery.





# Commonly used Blocks in MakeCode Arcade 🦜

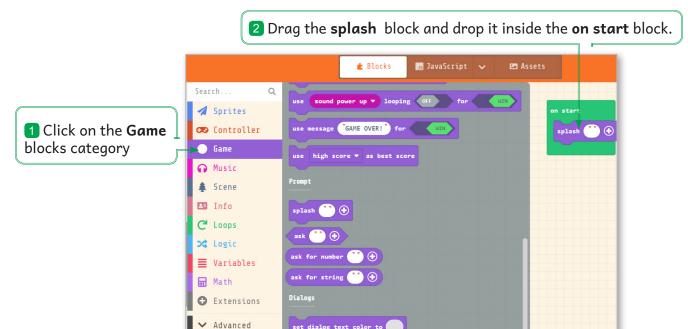
Block	Block Name	Description
splash "" 🕒	splash	The <b>splash</b> block in MakeCode displays a message on the screen for a specified duration
pause 100 ▼ ms	pause	The <b>pause</b> block in MakeCode temporarily stops program execution for a specified duration in milliseconds, allowing for timed delays between actions.

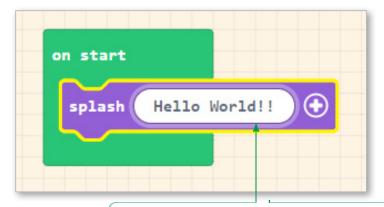
mySprite ▼ say ":)	say	The <b>say</b> block in MakeCode shows a message on the screen for a brief moment, typically used for quick text displays.
set mySprite ▼ position to x θ y θ	set position	The <b>set position</b> block in MakeCode places a sprite or element at specific X and Y coordinates on the screen.

# Getting started with Block Coding 📜

Block-based coding uses drag and drop approach. It's a programming activity to develop computational thinking. You can use coding instruction 'blocks' to perform a variety of tasks.

To display a message 'Hello World', create a New project in MakeCode Arcade and follow the given steps:





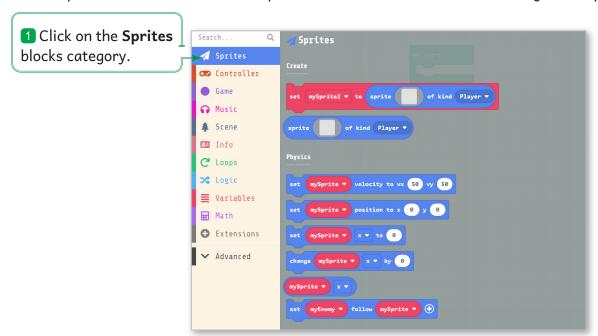
3 Type Hello Worlds!! in the splash block. The output will display in the Game Simulator window.



Well done, you have created your first block code program!

### Creating a Conversation Between Two Sprites in MakeCode Arcade 🦜

To create a simple interaction between two sprites in MakeCode Arcade, Follow the given steps:



2 Drag the set to sprite of kind block from Sprites block category and drop it inside the on start block.

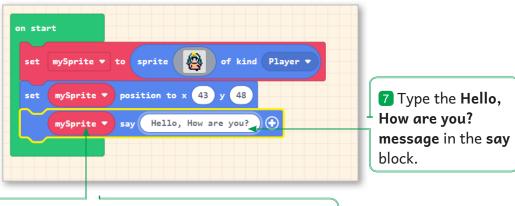


3 Click on the image icon and select the sprite you want to add from Gallery.

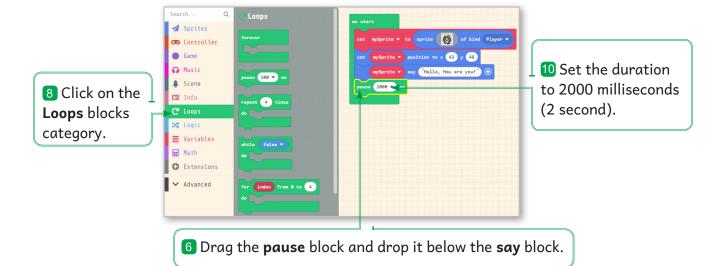
5 Change the position of mySprite x axis from 0 to 43 and y axis from 0 to 48.

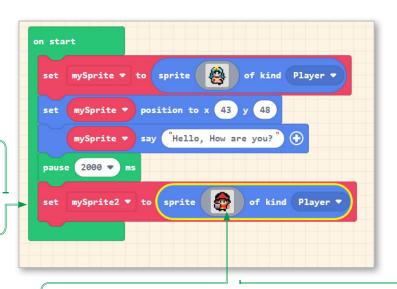


4 Drag the **set position** block from **Sprites** block category and drop it below the **set to sprite of kind** block.



6 Drag the **say** block from **Sprites** block category and drop it below the **set position** block.





11 Drag the set to sprite of kind block from Sprites block category and drop it below the pausea block.

12 Click on the **image icon** and select the another sprite you want to add from **Gallery**.

```
on start

set mySprite ▼ to sprite  of kind Player ▼

set mySprite ▼ position to x 43 y 48

mySprite ▼ say "Hello, How are you?"  

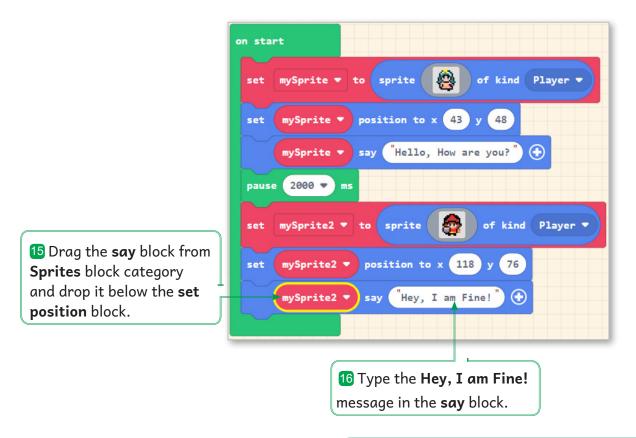
pause 2000 ▼ ms

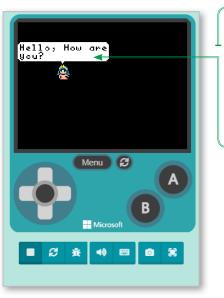
set mySprite2 ▼ to sprite  of kind Player ▼

set mySprite2 ▼ position to x 118 y 76
```

13 Drag the set position block from Sprites block category and drop it below the set to sprite of kind block.

14 Change the position of mySprite2 x axis from 0 to 118 and y axis from 0 to 76.





17 The output of mySprite will display in the Game Simulator window.

18 After 2 seconds the output of mySprite2 will display in the Game Simulator window.



### What is a Bug? 🔭

A bug is an unexpected problem in your program. You follow a defined sequence to write a program, from which you expect to return a specific output. Any change in the expected and actual output of the program is said to be the result of a bug.

So, we can say that bug is a general term which is used to describe any unexpected problem with hardware or software.

**Example:** Suppose you are going out for a family picnic. You are ready to go, but you notice that the tyre of the car is puncture, due to which your picnic will get delayed for few hours or you need to postpone it for some other day. As first you need to repair the tyre. So, this puncture in the tyre of the car can be termed as a 'bug' in programming.

### What is an Event? 🔭

Event is an action which has happened. You can consider event as a generalization of things on which the program responds.

In programming, an event is an action which occurs as a result of the user or another source, such as a mouse click.

#### Examples of the events are:

- Clicking and loading the web page on web browser
- Creation of file in a file system
- Webcam or microphone receiving sensory input
- Incoming network traffic
- Typing on keyboard
- Timer
- In mobile apps, the events that happen are the results of the user doing something (on a click of button the orientation of the phone screen changes)

#### What are Event Handlers?

Event handler is a block of code which get executed when the event occurs and it is associated with the event.

#### Examples of Event Handlers:

- In Makecode Arcade, you display message by using 'splash' block . 'splash' block will get execute when you click on 'start the simulator' button. In this 'start the simulator' button is an event handler.
- When you click "send" for a text message, it sends the message and makes a sound.
- When you purchase an app from an app store, the phone asks for a password.
- When you click an icon for an app, the app opens. In the previous class, you learned about the introduction to coding and MakeCode Arcade. In this class, you are going to learn more about MakeCode Arcade.

### 🏿 What are Variables? 🏋

You have seen your mother naming boxes in the kitchen. That box has a little storage capacity and your mother gave it a name such as salt, sugar, tea, etc. Similarly, a variable is a name given to a location in the computer's memory to store values or data. A variable has a name (for reference), a type (which defines the kind of data it can store and its size), and a value (the actual data).



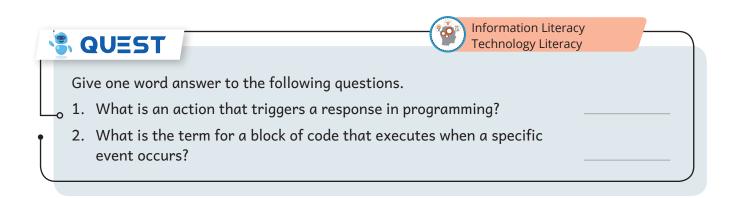
#### **Naming Variables**

Each variable in a program must have a unique name; you cannot use the same name for more than one variable. The name of a variable serves as an identifier.

#### Rules for Naming a Variable

Some rules for naming a variable are as follows:

- Name your variables in such a way that it describes their purpose.
- Variable names must begin with a letter or an underscore.
- No special characters or spaces are allowed in variable names.
- Uppercase and lowercase characters are distinct.
- Keywords (reserved words) cannot be used as a variable name. A keyword is a predefined word

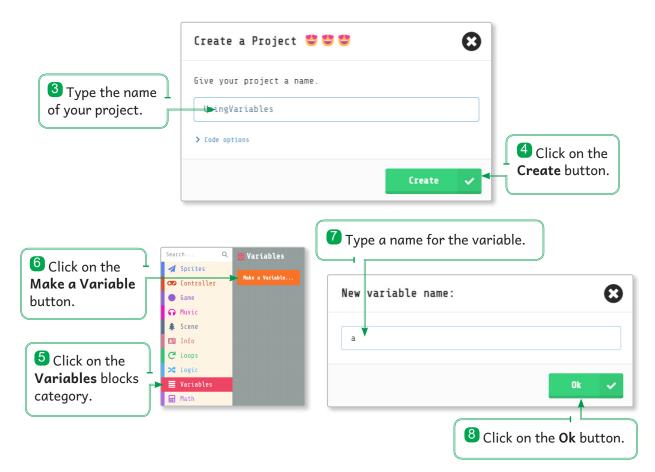


in any programming language.

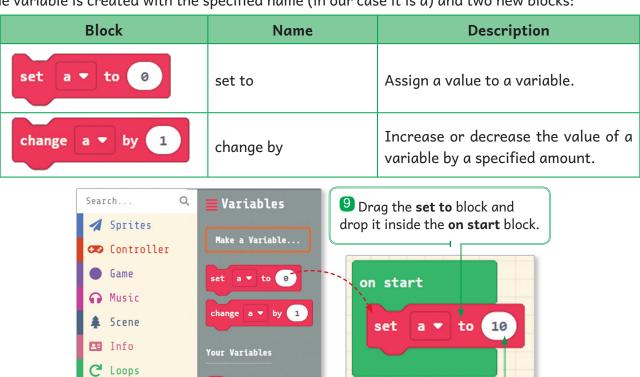
### **Creating Variable**

In MakeCode Arcade, we can create a variable using the **Variables** block category. Once a variable is created, you need to assign a value to it. This process of assigning a value to a variable is called **initialisation**. To create and initialise a variable in MakeCode Arcade, follow these steps:





The variable is created with the specified name (in our case it is a) and two new blocks:

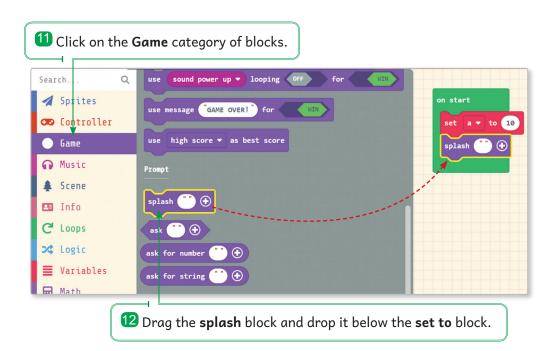


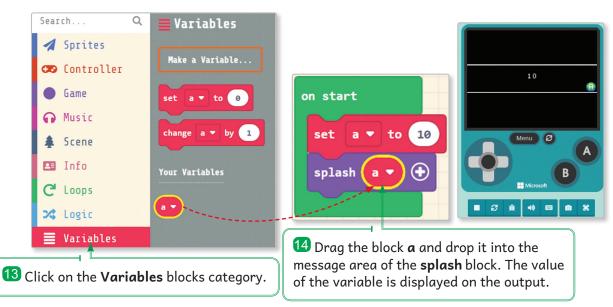
10 Change the value from 0 to

**10**. The variable **a** is initialised.

🔀 Logic

■ Variables





Similarly, we can create many variables.

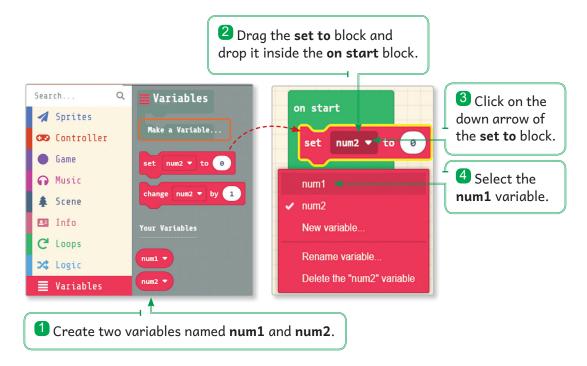
# Using Math Blocks 🏋

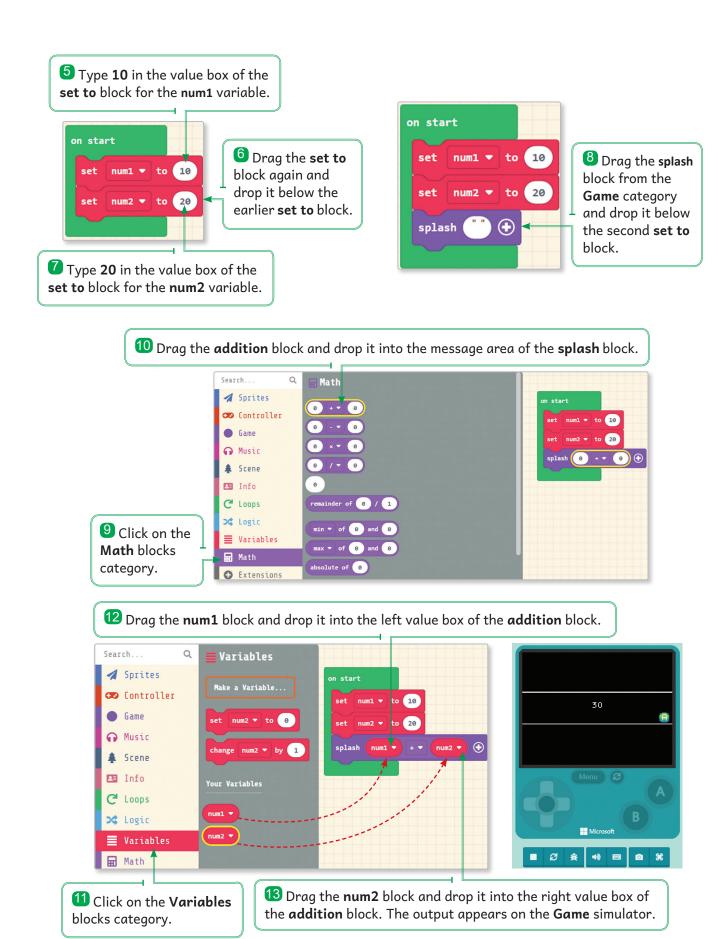
In MakeCode Arcade, Math blocks are used to perform various mathematical operations and computations in your games and projects, like addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The following table show different **Math** blocks:

Block	Name	Description
0 + 7 0	addition	Return the sum of the two numbers.
0 - 7 0	subtraction	Return the difference of the two numbers.

Block	Name	Description
0 x • 0	multiplication	Return the product of the two numbers.
0 / 0	division	Return the quotient of the two numbers.
remainder of 0 / 1	remainder of	Return the remainder after performing the division operation.
min ▼ of 0 and 0	min	Return the minimum between two numbers.
max ▼ of 0 and 0	max	Return the maximum between two numbers.
absolute of 0	absolute of	Return the absolute value of a number.
square root ▼ 0	square root	Return the square root of a number.
round • 0	round	Round of a number to the nearest whole number.
pick random 0 to 10	pick random	Generate random numbers within a specified range.

Let us create a simple project to perform the sum of two numbers. Follow the given steps to do so:





Similarly, we can use other Math blocks.

# Using Logic Blocks 🌾

In MakeCode Arcade, logic blocks are used to handle decision-making and control flow in your projects. We can access these blocks by clicking on the Logic blocks category. The Logic blocks are divided into three types:

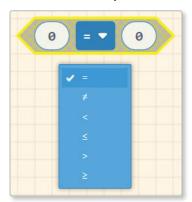
• **Conditionals:** These blocks, also known as decision-making blocks, are fundamental constructs in programming that allow a program to make decisions and execute different blocks of code based on certain conditions. There are two conditional blocks in MakeCode Arcade, which are as follows:

Block	Name	Description
if true ▼ then	if-then	Allow us to execute code only if a certain condition is true.
if true ▼ then else	if-then-else	Allow us to execute one block of code if a condition is true, and a different block of code if the condition is false.

• **Comparison:** These blocks help you compare values. By default, MakeCode Arcade shows only three comparison blocks, which are as follows:

Block	Name	Description
0 = 7 0	equal	Return true if both the numbers are equal.
0 ( 7 0	Less than	Return true if the first number is less than the second number.
" " = <b>T</b> " "	equal (for text)	Return true if both the text values are equal.

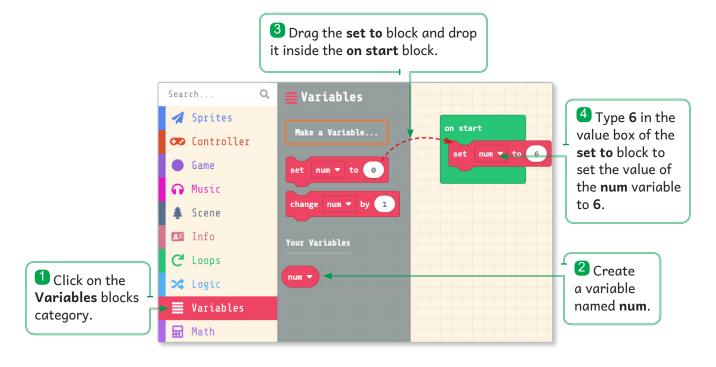
However, when we click on the down arrow of these blocks, we will get more comparison options like not equal to, greater than, greater than or equal to, and less than or equal to.

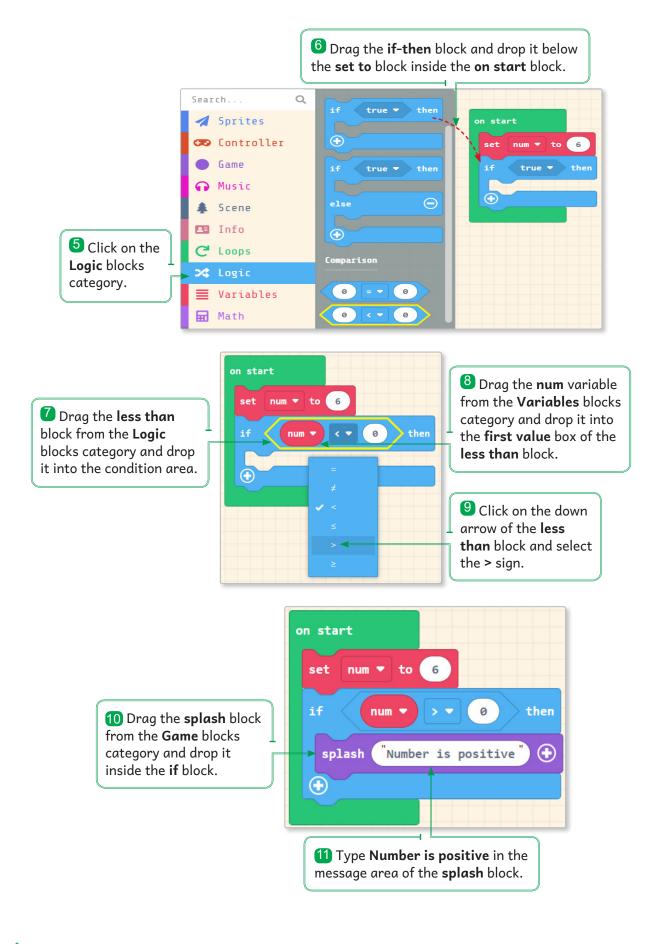


• **Boolean:** These blocks are used to combine or invert conditions. These blocks represent true/false values and are often used in conditions. They can be used to set or test boolean variables.

Block	Name	Description
and ▼	logical and	Return true if both the conditions are true.
or •	logical or	Return true if any of the conditions is true.
not	logical not	Return true if the condition is false and vice-versa.
true 🔻	boolean true	Set the value as true.
false ▼	boolean false	Set the value as false.

Let us create a project to display a message if a number is positive.



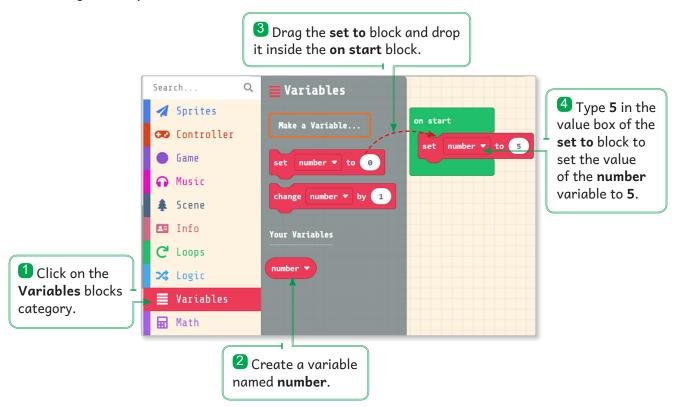


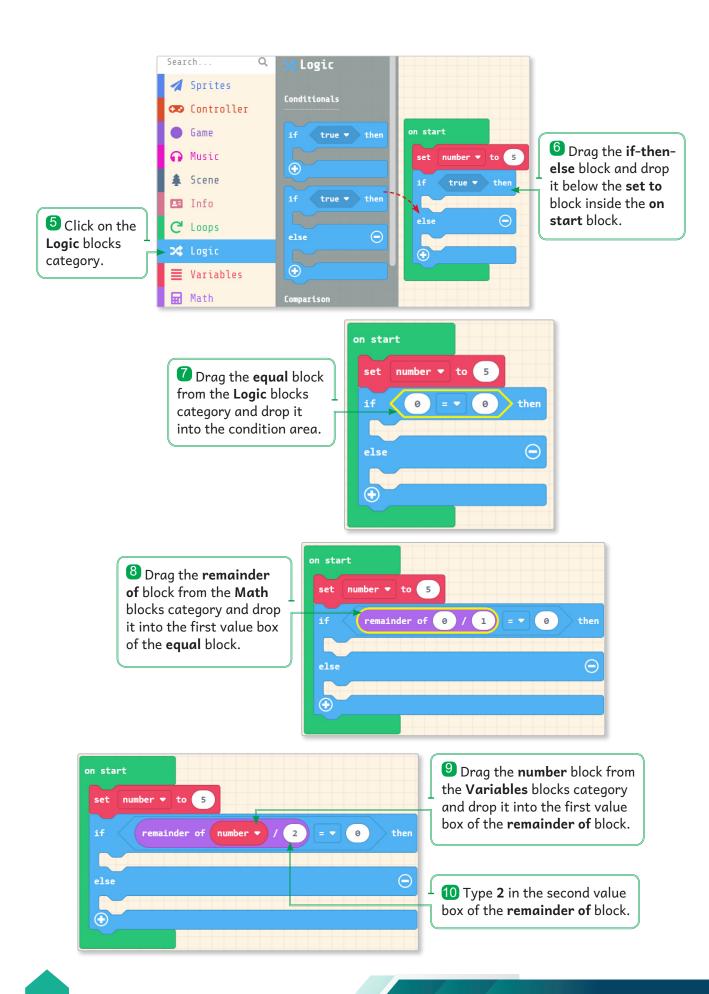
The output appears on the Game simulator.

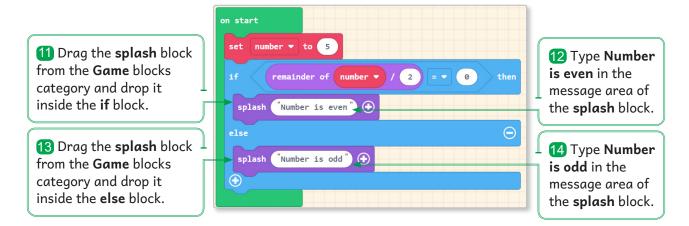


If we change the value of the variable num to -6 in the set to block, no output will be shown because the condition becomes false.

Let us create another project to check whether a number is even or odd using the if-then-else block. Follow the given steps to do so:





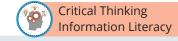


The output appears on the Game simulator. Change the value of the number variable in the set to block to see more output.









Multiply two variables named n1 and n2 and store the result in a third variable named result in MakeCode Arcade. Display values of all the variables using splash block.

### Do You Know?

You can test your games on physical devices like the Adafruit PyBadge, PyGamer, and even on the BBC micro.