

DID YOU KNOW?

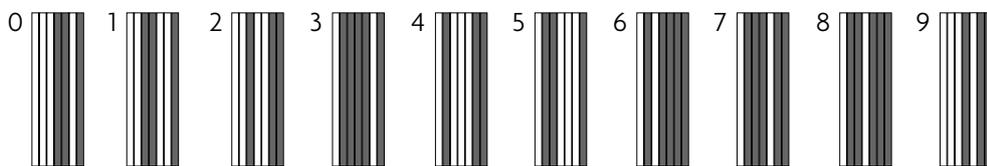
1 Read this text about barcodes.

Barcodes are all around us. Most of the time, you probably don't notice them. But think for a moment. When you buy a CD, a pair of jeans or a packet of biscuits, the shop assistant scans the product. The name and price appear automatically on the screen. All of that information is in the barcode.



How does a scanner read a barcode?

There are twelve digits in a barcode. Each digit has seven black and white bars. The scanner recognizes and identifies these digits. They look like this:



What do the twelve digits mean?

- Before the first digit there is a Start Code. It tells the scanner where to start.
- The first two digits represent the country. For example, the UK is usually 50 and Spain is usually 84.
- The next four digits represent the manufacturer, or maker.
- The next five digits identify the product.
- The final digit is a mathematical sum based on the eleven digits. The scanner uses it to check that the code is correct.

2 Answer these questions.

- 1 Look at the first part of the barcode on these trainers. Write the first six digits in the boxes.
- 2 Now look at the first two digits. Which country do the trainers come from?



3 Why do you think barcodes are important?