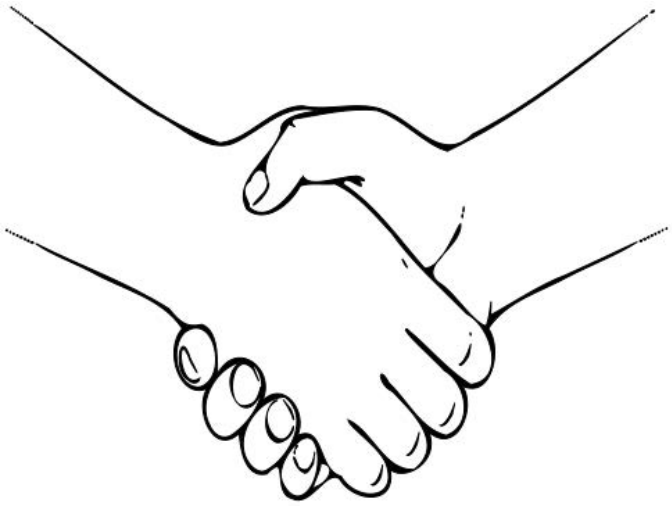
Puzzle of the Week

Handshakes at a Party – 1

Ten people were at a party. A lot of handshaking took place. When asked how many hands each person shook, the answers were: 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5, 6, and 8. When this was announced to the group, one person yelled out "That's impossible!"

THE CHALLENGE: Was that person right, did someone make a mistake in their handshake count? How do you know?



EXPLORATION: Look further into handshake counts and come up with a short list of counts that are possible and some that are impossible.