

# Pigs in a Pen

“Cousin Nat told me that his friend, a pig farmer named Babe something, has 27 pigs. I don’t believe it.” It was Fran Kudan calling. Her cousin Nat Kudan was a well-known practical joker in town.

“What’s not to believe, Fran?” Emma asked. This wasn’t the first time that Fran had contacted the twins to ask them to get to the bottom of something that old Nat Kudan had conjured up just to tease his relatives.

“I believe Babe something has 27 pigs,” she continued. “How can he have them in four pens?”

“Why not four pens, Fran?” Emma inquired.

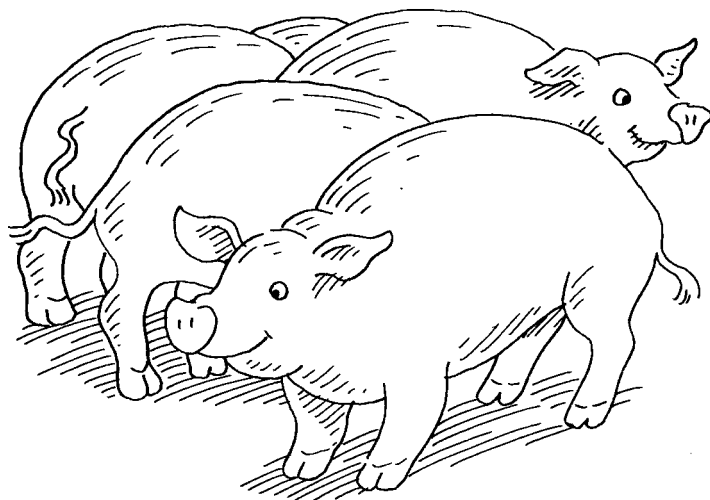
“Four pens wouldn’t ordinarily cause me to raise an eyebrow, Emma, but Nat also said that there’s an odd number of pigs in each one.”

An odd number of pigs in each of 4 pens for a total of 27 pigs. Now, that’s odd, Emma thought.

“Nat also claims that if Babe took apart his largest pen, he would still have the same number of penned pigs. None would run off or even stroll away. How can that be? I’m off to Babe’s farm to find some swine sums. I won’t fall for another one of old Nat’s goofy games. Care to join me?” Fran asked.

Emma was about to politely decline when the light bulb in her head went on. She told Fran to hang on because a light bulb in her head had gone on and she needed to make a quick drawing.

When Emma returned, she told Fran, “No point in making the trip. Nat’s right. I’ll draw a diagram and fax it to you.”



How could everything Nat said about Babe’s pigs be true? Draw a diagram to prove your point.

