

Mental math tricks



Pairs that make a round number

$$25 \times 4 = 100$$

a quarter of a hundred, four times

$$125 \times 8 = 1,000$$

an eighth of a thousand, eight times

$$50 \times 2 = 100$$

half of a hundred, twice

$$20 \times 5 = 100$$

and $2 \times 5 = 10$, ten times over

Swap the hard number for an easy one

$$18 \times 5 = 90$$

$\times 10$, then halve: $180 \div 2$

$$7 \times 9 = 63$$

$\times 10$, then take one off: $70 - 7$

$$23 \times 4 = 92$$

double, then double again: $46 \rightarrow 92$

$$340 \div 5 = 68$$

$\times 2$, then $\div 10$: $680 \div 10$

Patterns worth spotting

$$25 \times 36 = 900$$

rearrange to the round pair: $25 \times 4 \times 9$

$$35 \times 35 = 1,225$$

$3 \times 4 = 12$, then 25 on the end

$$24 \times 11 = 264$$

outside digits, middle is $2 + 4$

$$13 \times 99 = 1,287$$

$\times 100$, then one lot off: $1,300 - 13$