

How to Multiply Two-Digit Numbers Together

KS2 MATHS

MULTIPLICATION

NUMBER

Ages 9-12 ⌚ 3 min read

Why Multiply Two-Digit Numbers?

Multiplying two-digit numbers is a skill you'll use all the time—working out the cost of multiple items, calculating areas, or solving everyday problems. Once you understand the method, it becomes quick and easy.

Method 1: The Column Method

The **column method** (also called long multiplication) is what most schools teach.

Let's multiply 23×15 .

First, write the numbers in columns with the larger number on top. Then multiply the top number by the ones digit of the bottom number ($23 \times 5 = 115$). Write this answer on the first line.

Next, multiply the top number by the tens digit of the bottom number ($23 \times 1 = 23$). But remember: this digit is in the **tens place**, so you write your answer one space to the left (making it **230**).

Finally, add the two answers together: $115 + 230 = 345$. That's your answer!

Think of it like organizing your money: you count your pennies first, then your ten-pence coins separately, then add them all together.

Method 2: The Area Model

The **area model** works by breaking numbers into **tens and ones**. It's really helpful if you find the column method confusing.

Let's use the same problem: 23×15 . Break **23** into $20 + 3$, and **15** into $10 + 5$. Now draw a grid with four boxes. In each box, multiply the parts together: $20 \times 10 = 200$, $20 \times 5 = 100$, $3 \times 10 = 30$, and $3 \times 5 = 15$. Add all four answers: $200 + 100 + 30 + 15 = 345$.

Think of it like dividing a rectangular field into four smaller fields and measuring each one separately.

Which Method Should You Use?

The column method is faster once you've practised it. The area model helps you really understand what's happening when you multiply. Many teachers suggest learning both so you can choose whichever feels most comfortable.

The important thing is: **there's no wrong way** as long as you get the right answer and can explain your thinking. Keep practising, and soon multiplying two-digit numbers will feel automatic!