

How to Round Decimal Numbers to One Place

KS2 MATHS

Ages 10-12 ⏰ 3 min read

What Does Rounding Mean?

Rounding means changing a number to make it simpler while keeping it close to the original value. When you round a **decimal number** (a number with a dot in it), you're making it shorter and easier to work with.

For example, **3.14159** could be rounded to **3.1** so it's simpler. This is especially useful in real life—like when you're measuring ingredients for a recipe or calculating pocket money.

The Rounding Rule for One Decimal Place

To round a decimal to **one decimal place**, you only keep one digit after the dot. Here's the rule:

Look at the second digit after the decimal point. If it's **5 or higher**, round UP (increase the first digit by 1). If it's **4 or lower**, round DOWN (keep the first digit the same).

Think of it like a seesaw: when the number on the second spot is heavy (5 or more), it tips up and pushes the first digit higher. When it's light (4 or less), nothing changes.

Let's Try Some Examples

Example 1: Round **2.67** to one decimal place. Look at the second digit: it's **7**. Since 7 is 5 or higher, round UP. The answer is **2.7**.

Example 2: Round **4.23** to one decimal place. Look at the second digit: it's **3**. Since 3 is 4 or lower, round DOWN. The answer is **4.2**.

Example 3: Round **5.45** to one decimal place. Look at the second digit: it's **5**. Since 5 means round UP, the answer is **5.5**.

Think of it like deciding whether to jump to the next stepping stone in a stream. If the stone ahead is close enough (5 or higher), you jump. If it's far away (4 or lower), you

stay where you are.

Why Is Rounding Important?

Rounding makes numbers easier to remember and use in calculations. Scientists, engineers, and everyday people use rounding all the time. When you measure something, you might get **7.849 metres**, but rounding to one decimal place gives you **7.8 metres**—much simpler!

Practice rounding with numbers you see every day, and soon it will feel automatic.