

About.com Mathematics

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Math Tricks to Learn the Facts (*Multiplication*)

Free Multiplication Worksheets in PDF and MS Word [here](#)¹.

Learn the Multiplication Tables in 21 days - [more here](#)².

Word Problems 1st to the 6th grade. *Children should be able to solve these*³!

More and more in my teaching career, I'm seeing that children no longer memorize their multiplication tables. With the math curriculum as extensive as it is, teachers cannot afford to take the time to ensure that students learn the basic facts. Parents are partners in the process and will have greater opportunities for their children to succeed in math if they support the learning of the basics at home. Work with your children to ensure that they do not fall between the cracks. Help your children learn the facts. There are many tricks to teach children multiplication facts in mathematics. Some tricks that I used to use in my classroom are listed here. If you know of some that I may have missed, drop into the forum and let everyone know. I'll add them to this list as I see them.

The 9 Times Quickie

1. Hold your hands in front of you with your fingers spread out.
2. For 9×3 bend your third finger down. (9×4 would be the fourth finger etc.)
3. You have 2 fingers in front of the bent finger and 7 after the bent finger.
4. Thus the answer must be 27.
5. This technique works for the 9 times tables up to 10.

The 4 Times Quickie

1. If you know how to double a number, this one is easy.
2. Simply, double a number and then double it again!

The 11 Times Rule #1

1. Take any number to 10 and multiply it by 11.
2. Multiply 11 by 3 to get 33, multiply 11 by 4 to get 44. Each number to 10 is just duplicated.

The 11 Times Rule #2

1. Use this strategy for two digit numbers only.
2. Multiply 11 by 18. Jot down 1 and 8 with a space between it. 1 --8.
3. Add the 8 and the 1 and put that number in the middle: 198

Deck 'Em!

1. Use a deck of playing cards for a game of Multiplication War.
2. Initially, children may need the grid (*below*) to become quick at the answers.
3. Flip over the cards as though you are playing Snap.
4. The first one to say the fact based on the cards turned over (a four and a five = Say "20") gets the cards.
5. The person to get all of the cards wins!
6. Children learn their facts much more quickly when playing this game on a regular basis.

Seeing the Patterns

1. Use a [multiplication grid](#)⁴ or let your students/children create one.
2. Look carefully at all of the patterns, especially when the numbers correspond with the facts e.g., 7×8 and $8 \times 7 = 56$
3. Let students/children practice the 'fast adding' which is what multiplication is.
4. When students can count by 3s, 4s, 5s 6s, etc. they will automatically know their multiplication tables.

Previous Articles⁵

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