MATHEMATICS · GRADES 4-6

Perimeter of squares and rectangles

Difficulty level: Intermediate

Mathematics: Grades 4-6

This document was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

Overview of the concept

This is how you work out how much fence you need for a yard or how much ribbon goes around a picture frame. A homeowner measures the four sides of a yard to buy the right length of fence, and a framer measures a picture to cut the right length of ribbon. Buying too little means a trip back to the store, and buying far too much wastes money. A quick measure of the distance around is what keeps both jobs simple.



Rule

The perimeter of a rectangle is $P = 2 \times l + 2 \times w$.

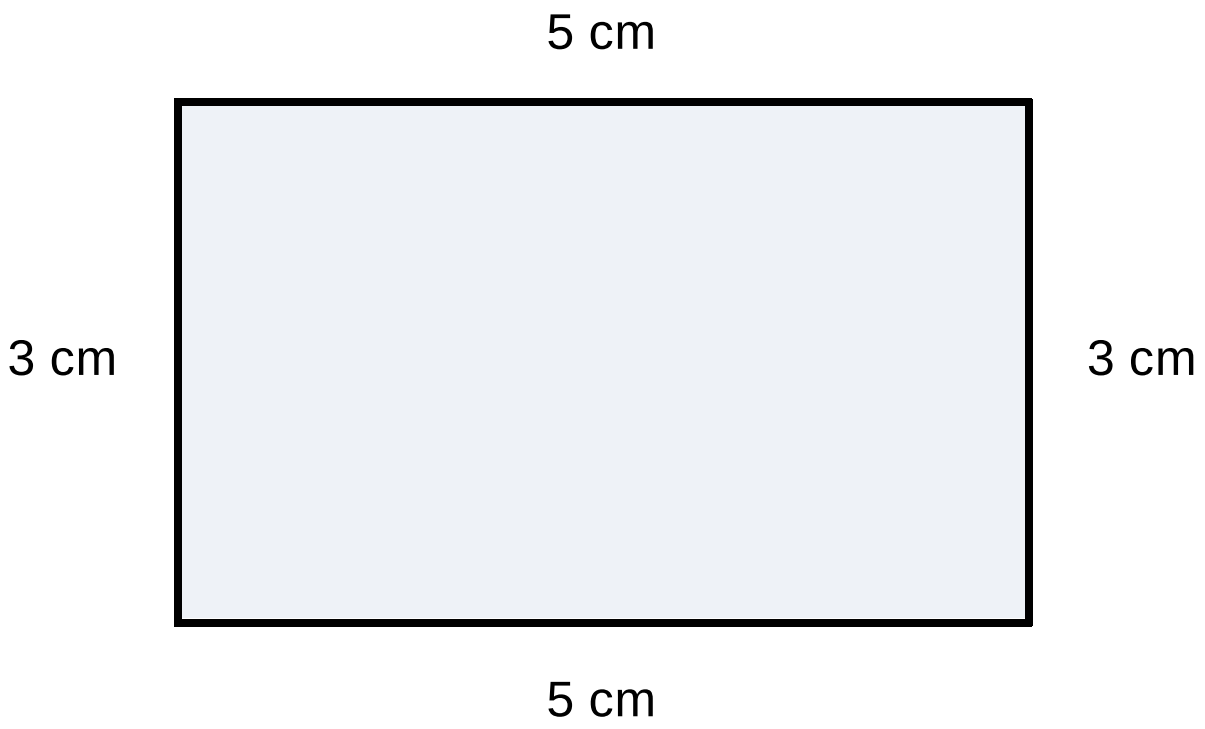
The perimeter of a square is $P = 4 \times s$, because all four sides are equal.

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q What is the perimeter of a rectangle 5 cm by 3 cm?



SOLUTION

5 + 3 + 5 + 3 = 16 cm

A rectangle has two lengths and two widths.

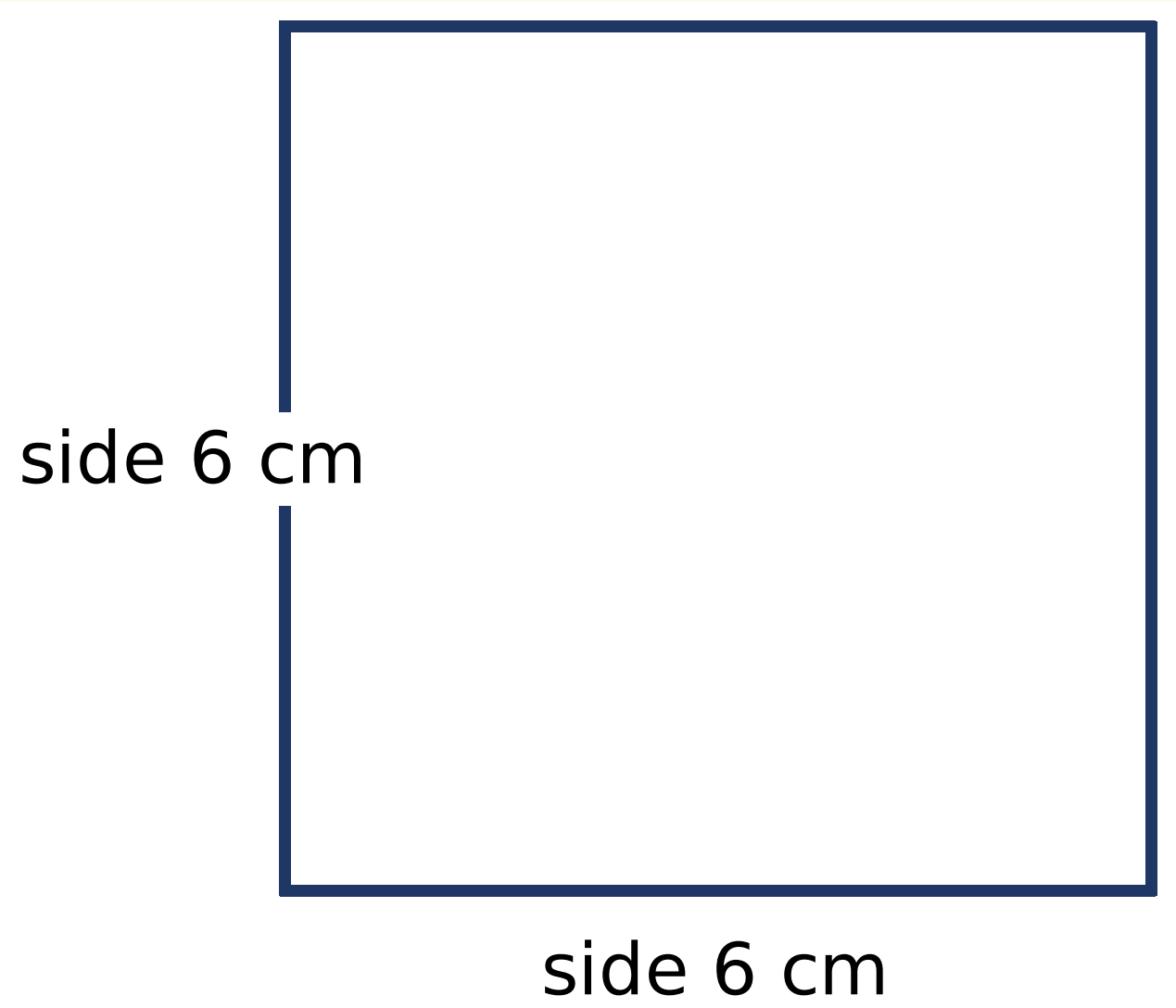
Add all four sides: 5 + 3 + 5 + 3 = 16

Perimeter: 16 cm

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

EXAMPLE 2

Q What is the perimeter of a square with side 6 cm?



SOLUTION

4 × 6 = 24 cm

A square has four equal sides.

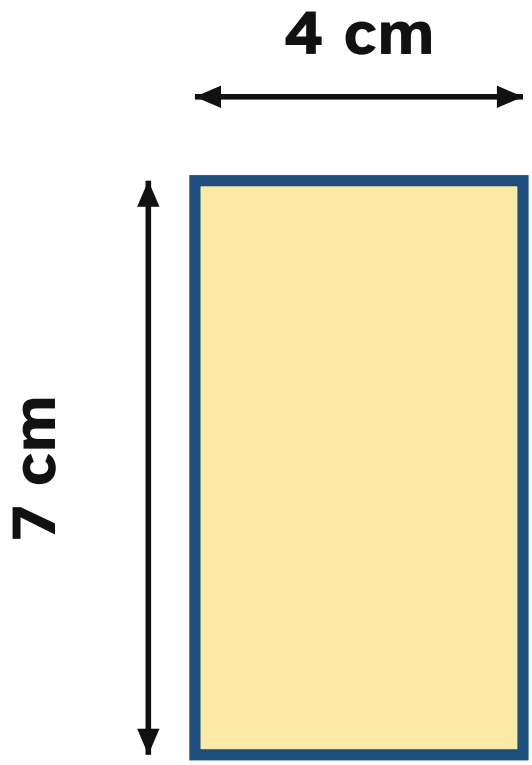
Multiply one side by 4: 4 × 6 = 24

Perimeter: 24 cm

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

Practice questions

1 A rug is the shape in the picture. How much trim is needed to go all the way around it?



Understand It with Pulse

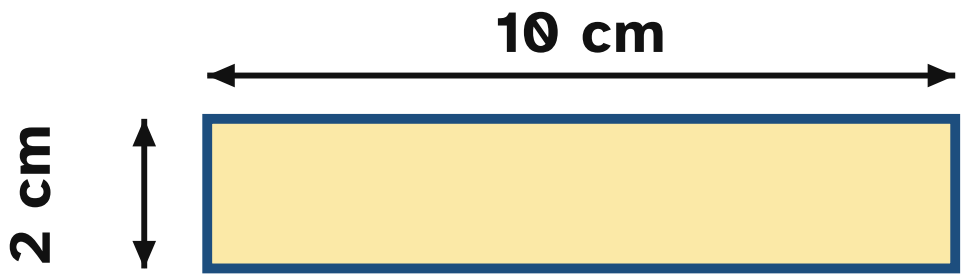
Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

2 A tile is a square with side 9 cm. What is its perimeter?

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

3 A bookmark is the shape in the picture. What is its perimeter?



Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

4 A cushion is a square with side 12 cm. What is its perimeter?

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

5 A table is 8 cm by 8 cm. What is its perimeter?

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

6 A poster is 15 cm by 5 cm. What is its perimeter?

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

7 A square tile has side 3 cm. What is its perimeter?

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

8 A tray is 6 cm by 11 cm. What is its perimeter?

Understand It with Pulse Flag a mistake

9 A square field has side 20 cm. What is its perimeter?

Understand It with Pulse Flag a mistake

10 A book cover is 9 cm by 4 cm. What is its perimeter?

Understand It with Pulse Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

ANSWER KEY

1. 22

2. 36

3. 24

4. 48

5. 32

6. 40

7. 12

8. 34

9. 80

10. 26

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.