MATHEMATICS · GRADES 4-6

Rounding decimals

Difficulty level: Intermediate

Mathematics: Grades 4-6

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Overview of the concept

This is how you give a number to a sensible number of places, like a price to the nearest cent or a measurement to the nearest tenth of a centimetre. A shop price needs two decimal places, since a third would be a fraction of a cent nobody can pay. A carpenter measures to the nearest millimetre, and a scientist records a result to the precision their instrument can actually measure. Rounding to the right place keeps a number honest, without pretending to be more exact than it really is.



Rule

To round, look at the next digit after the place you are rounding to.

If it is 5 or more, round up. If it is less than 5, stay.

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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Round 3.47 to the nearest tenth



SOLUTION

3.47 -> tenths place is 4

Next digit is 7 (5 or more)

Round up: 3.5

Find the tenths place: 4 in 3.47.

Look at the next digit, 7. That digit is 5 or higher, so the number rounds up.

Tenths go from 4 to 5: 3.5

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EXAMPLE 2

Q Round 2.43 to the nearest tenth



SOLUTION

2.43 -> tenths place is 4

Next digit is 3 (less than 5)

Stay: 2.4

Find the tenths place: 4 in 2.43.

Look at the next digit, 3. That digit is below 5, so the number stays as it is.

So the answer is 2.4.

Practice questions

1 **Round 4.73 to the nearest tenth.**

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2 Round 5.27 to the nearest tenth. What digit do you look at to decide whether to round up or stay?

- A 7
- B 2
- C 5
- D 27

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3 5.68 rounded to the nearest tenth is 5.7. Was the number rounded up or rounded down?

- A Rounded up
- B Rounded down

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4 **Round 1.24 to the nearest tenth.**

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5 **Round 7.85 to the nearest tenth.**

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6 **Round 4.364 to the nearest hundredth.**

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7 Round 9.57 to the nearest whole number.

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8 12.48 is between 12.4 and 12.5. Which one is it closer to?

A 12.5

B 12.4

C Exactly halfway

D Neither

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9 Round 6.72 to the nearest whole number.

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10 **Round 3.456 to the nearest hundredth.**

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ANSWER KEY

1. 4.7

2. 7

3. Rounded up

4. 1.2

5. 7.9

6. 4.36

7. 10

8. 12.5

9. 7

10. 3.46

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