

Estimating and rounding: key words

Some key words associated with rounding and estimating are discussed below.

NOTE: the text that follows is based on this calculation:

$$197 - 50 = 147$$

Round/rounding

Meaning: to write a number to a **given amount of accuracy**.

Example: **rounding** 197 to the nearest 100 would be 200.

Estimate/estimating

Meaning: to give a **rough answer** that may be a little less or a little more than the actual result.

Example: to **estimate** 197 - 50 you may instead work out 200 - 50 to give an **estimate** of 150.

Approximate/approximating

Meaning: an answer that's **not exactly correct** but is close enough to be **useful** in working out a sum.

Example: to **approximate** 197 - 50 you may instead work out 200 - 50 to give an estimate of 150.

To the nearest.../rounding off...

Meaning: a **guide** to how accurate your rounding needs to be.

Example: rounding 197 **to the nearest 100** would be 200.

Example: **rounding off** 147 to the nearest 10 would be 150.

Actual

Meaning: the **correct answer** to a calculation.

Example: the estimate of 197 - 50 is 150. The **actual** answer is 147.

For more information about maths words see the [Skillswise Glossary](#).