

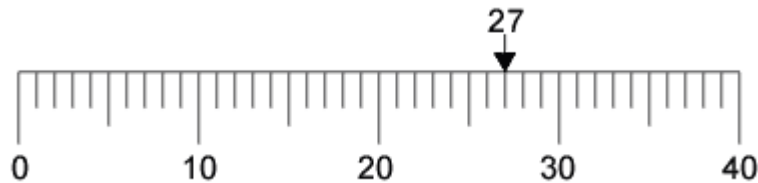
Rules for rounding

Sample question (rounding)

A stick of rock is **27 cm** long. How long is it to the nearest **10 cm**?

Correct answer

27 cm is between **20 cm** and **30 cm**. So **27 cm** will get rounded to either **20 cm** or **30 cm**. To calculate the right answer we need to **decide whether 27 is nearer to 20 or 30**.



In the scale above you'll see that 27 is closer to 30 than it is to 20.

So **27 cm** is rounded up to **30 cm**.

So the stick of rock is **30 cm** long when we measure **to the nearest 10 cm**.

For the same reasons, 26, 27, 28 and 29 all get **rounded up** to 30.

And 21, 22, 23 and 24 all get **rounded down** to 20

What about 25? It's exactly half way between 20 and 30. It has to be rounded one way or the other.

The rule that everyone usually follows is that 25 gets **rounded up** to 30.

The rules of rounding

1, 2, 3 and **4** get **rounded down**

5, 6, 7, 8 and **9** get **rounded up**

These rules work for all numbers, whether using **tens**, **hundreds** or **thousands** (or anything else).

For more information about the rules of rounding see the other factsheets on this topic.