

Mental division methods

Mental methods are about trying to get to the **correct answer** in the **quickest** and **easiest** way.

Here are two of the mental methods you can use. When you've read about them, practise the methods you like and can **remember most easily**.

Splitting the number you're dividing into, to make it simpler:

$48 \div 3$		
Split 48 into 30 and 18, as both can be easily divided by 3.		
$30 \div 3$	plus	$18 \div 3$
Which makes:		
10	plus	6
Which equals:		
16		

Numbers can be **split into factors** to make dividing simpler:

$816 \div 6$
Split the 6 into factors – 2 and 3. ($2 \times 3 = 6$)
$816 \div 2 \div 3$ $816 \div 2 = 408$, then $408 \div 3$
Which equals:
136

Dividing with even numbers

$120 \div 40$ is the same as (keep **halving** both numbers):

$$60 \div 20$$

$$30 \div 10$$

$$15 \div 5$$

which is **3**

Tip

Using mental methods is about **choosing the method that works best for you** and for the numbers you're dealing with.

If you're in a group, you could discuss which methods you prefer. You could also consider voting for the most popular methods. Then you could let us know the results.