



Perimeter: rectangles and squares

In a rectangle the **opposite sides are equal**, so to work out the perimeter of a rectangle you just need to know the **length and width**.

Example 1



Here the length is 15 cm and the width 6 cm.

Method 1

Length = 15 cm and width = 6 cm

Perimeter = $15 + 6 + 15 + 6 = 42$ cm

Method 2

Because opposite sides are equal you can also work out the perimeter in this way: double the length, double the width, then add the results together:

$$(15 \times 2) + (6 \times 2) = 30 + 12 = 42 \text{ cm}$$

Method 3

Add the length and width then double it.

$$15 + 6 = 21 \text{ cm}$$

$$21 \times 2 = 42 \text{ cm}$$

The method you choose is up to you - each one will give the same answer.

Example 2



A square is a rectangle with four sides of equal length. So you only need to know the measurement of **one side** to find the perimeter.

The perimeter of this shape can be worked out as:

$$5 + 5 + 5 + 5 = 20 \text{ m}$$

Or you can **multiply the length by four**: $5 \times 4 = 20 \text{ m}$