Rounding and estimating numbers: revision

Rounding is a way of **simplifying** numbers. We round numbers all the time and use **different words** to describe rounding:

58	is **nearly** 60
709	is **about** 700
£6.99	is **roughly** £7
584 grams	is **close to** 600 grams
891 metres	is **approximately** 900 metres
11.57 am	is **almost** 12 o'clock
305 millilitres	**more than** 300 millilitres
98 people	**less than** 100 people
32 years	She's 30**-ish** years old

It's **almost** 12 o'clock

Rounding numbers makes it easier to:

- **describe and understand numbers**
- estimate answers to numeracy questions
- guess numbers when we don't know the exact amount

Rules for rounding to the nearest 10

- **1, 2, 3 and 4 get rounded down.**
- **5, 6, 7, 8** and **9** get **rounded up.**

For example:

- 43 rounded to the nearest 10 is **rounded down** to 40
- 85 rounded to the nearest 10 is **rounded up** to 90

Rules for rounding to the nearest 100

If the tens figure is:

- **1, 2, 3** and **4** it gets **rounded down**
- **5, 6, 7, 8** and **9** it gets **rounded up**

For example:

- 292 rounded to the nearest 100 is **rounded up** to 300
- 635 rounded to the nearest 100 is **rounded down** to 600

We use rounded numbers to give us a rough idea or an **estimate**.

By carrying out estimates we can work out answers to maths questions quickly.

For example:
To **estimate** the cost of 4 pizzas at £8.75, round £8.75 up to £9 and multiply by 4: 9 × 4 = 36.
The pizzas will cost **roughly** £36. This is close to the actual cost of £35.