





Understanding why numbers are rounded

<p>1. Rounding makes it easier to describe and understand numbers. My council tax is almost £900 per year. This is easier than saying £885 per year. The journey from Glasgow to Cardiff is roughly 400 miles. The actual mileage is 392.</p>	
<p>2. Working with simpler numbers makes calculations easier. You want to check the bill for take-away pizzas: £4.75 £3.95 £3.25 £0.95 If you round these prices to the nearest pound that's: $5 + 4 + 3 + 1 = 13$. So your bill should be about £13. It comes to £12.90 so you know the bill seems correct.</p>	
<p>3. It makes it easier to estimate answers to maths questions. You can use rounding to check calculations mentally (in your head). This skill is useful when shopping. Always check your change, just in case the cashier has made a mistake. You pay £13.68 for shopping with a £20 note and want to check your change. Round the £13.68 up to £14. Work out $20 - 14 = 6$. You should get just over £6 change.</p>	
<p>4. It helps identify mistakes in maths work. This is also a very useful habit to develop in all your maths work. If you learn to make quick estimates, you'll see when you have a 'sensible' answer. It helps spot simple mistakes! You have the question $782 \div 4$. If you can quickly think that $800 \div 4 = 200$, you'll expect your answer to be just under 200 - if not, you'll need to check again.</p>	
<p>5. You don't always need to be exact. You might give directions to somewhere and say: 'it's about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile' or 'it's about 20 minutes' walk'.</p>	