

Grades 1-5 Learning Guide

The foundational skills that carry a student from Grade 1 through Grade 5: place value, the four operations, fractions, measurement, and how to read a word problem. Pair this guide with the grade-specific worksheet that matches your child's current level.

SECTIONS	6	WORKED EXAMPLES	5	FORMAT	Print friendly
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How to use this guide

A formula you cannot place is not knowledge yet. Work the recall drill below before the questions.

- Work through a section together and say the strategy out loud before writing a number.
- A wrong answer is useful information — ask which step felt uncertain, not just what the right answer is.
- Short, regular practice beats one long session. Ten focused minutes most days works better than an hour once a week.

1. Place value

NAME	FORMULA	WHEN TO USE
Ones and tens	each digit's position sets its value	Reading or writing a two-digit number.
Hundreds place	3rd digit from the right = hundreds	Comparing numbers like 240 and 204.
Expanded form	$342 = 300 + 40 + 2$	Showing what each digit is worth.
Comparing numbers	compare the leftmost digit first	Deciding which of two numbers is larger.
Rounding	look at the digit to the right of the place	Estimating before an exact calculation.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Round 468 to the nearest ten.

1. Look at the ones digit: 8
2. 8 is 5 or more, so round up
3. 468 rounds to 470

Check: 470 is the nearest multiple of ten to 468.

2. Addition and subtraction

NAME	FORMULA	WHEN TO USE
Fact families	one addition/subtraction group of 3 numbers	Checking a subtraction with addition.

NAME	FORMULA	WHEN TO USE
Regrouping (carrying)	trade 10 ones for 1 ten when a column exceeds 9	Adding multi-digit numbers.
Regrouping (borrowing)	trade 1 ten for 10 ones when subtracting	A digit on top is smaller than below.
Estimating a sum	round each number, then add	Checking whether an exact answer is reasonable.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Add $268 + 157$ using regrouping.

- $8 + 7 = 15$, write 5 carry 1
- $1 + 6 + 5 = 12$, write 2 carry 1
- $1 + 2 + 1 = 4$
- $268 + 157 = 425$

Check: Estimate: $270 + 160 = 430$, close to 425.

3. Multiplication and division

NAME	FORMULA	WHEN TO USE
Multiplication as repeated addition	$4 \times 3 = 3 + 3 + 3 + 3$	Introducing what multiplication means.
Multiplication facts	memorized products through 12×12	Fast, accurate recall for larger problems.
Division as sharing	$12 / 3$ asks how many groups of 3 make 12	Splitting a total into equal groups.
Fact family (x and /)	$3 \times 4 = 12$, so $12 / 4 = 3$ and $12 / 3 = 4$	Checking a division answer.
Remainders	what is left over after equal groups	A total does not divide evenly.

WORKED EXAMPLE

A teacher has 29 pencils and gives 4 to each student. How many students get pencils, and how many are left over?

- $29 / 4 = 7$ remainder 1
- 7 groups of 4 use 28 pencils
- $29 - 28 = 1$ left over

Check: 7 students, 1 pencil left over.

4. Fractions and decimals

NAME	FORMULA	WHEN TO USE
Fraction as a part of a whole	numerator / denominator	Naming a shaded part of a shape.
Equivalent fractions	multiply or divide top and bottom by the same number	$1/2 = 2/4 = 4/8$.
Comparing fractions	same denominator: compare numerators	Deciding which fraction is larger.
Adding fractions (same denominator)	add numerators, keep the denominator	$1/5 + 2/5 = 3/5$.
Decimal place value	tenths, hundredths after the decimal point	Reading money or measurement decimals.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Which is larger, $3/8$ or $5/8$?

1. Same denominator (8)
2. Compare numerators: $5 > 3$
3. $5/8$ is larger

Check: 5 eighths covers more of the whole than 3 eighths.

5. Measurement, time, and money

NAME	FORMULA	WHEN TO USE
Telling time	hour hand short, minute hand long	Reading an analog clock.
Elapsed time	count forward from the start time	Finding how long an activity lasted.
Coin values	penny 1c, nickel 5c, dime 10c, quarter 25c	Counting a group of coins.
Perimeter	add all the side lengths	Fencing around a shape.
Area of a rectangle	length x width	Covering a flat surface, like a floor or garden.

WORKED EXAMPLE

A rectangle is 6 inches long and 4 inches wide. Find its perimeter and area.

1. Perimeter = $2(6) + 2(4) = 12 + 8 = 20$ inches
2. Area = $6 \times 4 = 24$ square inches

Check: Perimeter measures around the edge; area measures the surface inside.

6. Reading a word problem

NAME	FORMULA	WHEN TO USE
Underline the question	find exactly what is being asked	Before choosing an operation.
Circle the numbers	identify every quantity given	Making sure nothing is missed.
Choose the operation	match key words to + - x /	Combined/total = add; left/fewer = subtract.
Check the answer	does it make sense in the story?	Catching an answer that is clearly too big or small.

Notes and tutor hand-off

Bring this page to your next session so the tutor can start from what actually blocked you.

Which grade-level worksheet did your child use today?

Which section above needs another look together?

One thing your child explained well without help:

Worksheet question numbers to revisit with a tutor:
