

Practising Times Tables at Home

Top tips for younger children -

- Don't try to practise all the times tables. Begin with the 2, 5, 10 x table.
- Use play or objects to help understand numbers, use toys or real-life objects to count out 2, 5, 10s to help them understand what each number represents.
- Listen to some catchy counting number songs on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvTcpfSnOMQ> has songs for counting in 2, 5 and 10s).
- Chanting in 2, 5 and 10s can help children remember information.

Top tips for older children -

- Practise tables as a time filler, whenever you have a few minutes to spare - test your child or ask them to recite a table.
- Chanting or singing the tables is a great way to remember information.
- Concentrate on the tables and tables facts which they find most difficult. Ask them to write them out and stick it somewhere around the house as a reminder.
- Make links between the tables facts. All facts can be turned around which means you only have to learn them once. e.g. 4×6 is the same as 6×4 .
- Use a number square (attached) as a visual reference. The children could colour in multiples of different numbers on different squares to clearly see the number pattern.
- Make it real. Try to take opportunities to get your child to use multiplication in problem solving, for example working out quantities to scale up a recipe (e.g. make it for 4 instead of 2) or calculating the price of more than one of the same item when shopping.
- Set a weekly challenge or competition. This could be a time challenge or a times table race with someone else.
- Working out the patterns for some tables can make them easier to learn. For example, $2x$ is doubling the number, $5x$ ends in a

0 or a 5, 4x is doubling the 2x answers, 10x table always ends in a 0. (See below for 9x table pattern)

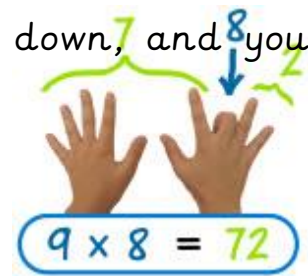
- Online games/songs/videos can also help children to revise their tables.

9x table pattern -

9x has a pattern, too: 9, 18, 27, 36, 45, 54, 63, 72, 81, 90

Now, notice how the "ones" place goes down: 9, 8, 7, 6, ...? And at the same time, the "tens" place goes up: 1, 2, 3,...? Also, your hands can help!

Example: to multiply 9 by 8: hold your 8th finger down, and you can count "7" and "2" ... the answer is 72



Resources

Websites (songs/games/extra information) -

<https://www.mathsisfun.com/multiplication-tips-tricks.html> (tricks and tips for times tables)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/superovers/times-table-collection/z4vv6v4> (videos for all tables)

https://www.youtube.com/c/laughalongandlearn?sub_confirmation=1 (lots of times tables songs)

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables> (games)

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/> (games)

<https://www.mathschase.com/all-games/> (times table drills)

<https://www.timestables.com/games/> (games)

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/maths/timestable/interactive.htm> (lots of games)

No/Low preparation games -

Travelling with tables

Do you walk to school? Or do you catch the bus? Use lamp posts, hedges, road-signs or people pushing prams as inspiration for tables questions! For example, if there are 2 buses with 6 people on each, what's 6×2 ?

A pack of cards

A child learning a single table, such as the four times table, picks a card and multiplies the number on it by, so that the three of Hearts becomes 3×4 .

You can ask a more advanced times table to pull out two cards and multiply them together - for example, the eight of Spades and the two of Diamonds becomes 8×2 . (Also words with dice)

Tables tennis

A fun game of speed! You serve the imaginary ball by asking your child a tables question; your child returns it by answering as fast as they can.

If they are correct, ask another tables question, keeping the rally going until they get one wrong or get to a target you have set in advance. See how long they can keep the rally going! You can adjust the difficulty of the questions you ask in order to encourage them.

Scaling windows

Count the number of windows on a house you pass by.

How many windows would the house have if it were five times bigger?

Have a go at seven times bigger.

Or half the size?

Fizz Buzz

Choose the times table you would like to practise.

Take turns with your child take turns to count from 1 (or you can get the whole family in on this one).

When you get to a multiple in your chosen times table, you must say "FIZZ!" instead of the number.

A way you can make it harder is to add an extra rule. If any number contains the same number you chose for the times table, you have to say BUZZ!