

Estimating Strategies for Sums and Differences

Strategy	Example
Round each number to the nearest multiple of 10, 100, 1000 etc.	$693 + 458$ is about $700 + 500 = 1200$ $693 - 458$ is about $690 - 460 = 230$
Round each number to another "round" number	$693 + 458$ is about $700 + 450 = 1150$ $693 - 458$ is about $700 - 450 = 250$
Round one number but not the other	$693 + 458$ is about $700 + 458 = 1158$
When adding, round both numbers, one up and one down	$693 + 458$ is about $700 + 450 = 1150$
When subtracting, round both numbers up or both numbers down	$693 - 458$ is about $700 - 500 = 200$ $693 - 458$ is about $650 - 450 = 200$
Estimate within a range	$428 + 397$ is between 700 ($400 + 300$) and 900 ($500 + 400$)
Estimate in terms of money	$385 + 245$ is about 3 loonies, 3 quarters + 2 loonies, 2 quarters, which is 6 loonies, 1 quarter, or 625
Estimate by using compatible numbers, which are often not "round" at all	$867 - 471$ is about $867 - 467 = 400$

Estimating Strategies for Products and Quotients

Strategy	Example
Round one or both numbers to the nearest multiple of 10, 100, 1000 etc.	25×52 is about $25 \times 50 = 1250$ 39×31 is about $40 \times 30 = 1200$ $642 \div 32$ is about $600 \div 30 = 20$
Round numbers such that familiar multiplication and division facts can be used.	$574 \div 9$ is about $560 \div 8 = 70$ $574 \div 9$ is about $540 \div 9 = 60$
When multiplying, round one factor up and the other down.	65×15 is about $60 \times 20 = 1200$
When dividing, round both numbers up or both numbers down.	$337 \div 8$ is about $360 \div 9 = 40$ $337 \div 8$ is about $280 \div 7 = 40$
Round numbers to the nearest multiple of 10, 100, 1000, or 25 to be able to multiply or divide by 25	389×27 is about $400 \times 25 = 10\ 000$ $612 \div 27$ is about $600 \div 25 = 24$