



Practicing Multiplication Combinations (page 1 of 2)

Dear Families,

To develop good computation strategies, students need to become fluent with the multiplication combinations from 1×1 to 12×12 , often known as “multiplication facts” or “multiplication tables.”

In fifth grade, students are expected to review and practice all the combinations up to 12×12 , which they studied in third and fourth grades.

The sheer number of multiplication combinations to remember can seem overwhelming, and many adults remember the task of “memorizing the facts.” In school, students have learned these combinations in categories of related combinations to help them.

As fifth-grade students review the multiplication combinations, they identify the combinations they still need to practice. They record the combinations they are still learning, and add “clues” to help them with those combinations. Students use a combination that they know which is close to the combination they are solving, and then adjust to find the product. Here are some examples.

$$9 \times 8 = 72 \quad \text{and} \quad 8 \times 9 = 72$$

$$\text{Clue: } \underline{10 \times 8 = 80} \quad \underline{80 - 8 = 72}$$

$$6 \times 7 = 42 \quad \text{and} \quad 7 \times 6 = 42$$

$$\text{Clue: } \underline{6 \times 5 = 30} \quad \underline{6 \times 2 = 12} \quad \underline{30 + 12 = 42}$$

$$4 \times 8 = 32 \quad \text{and} \quad 8 \times 4 = 32$$

$$\text{Clue: } \underline{2 \times 8 = 16} \quad \underline{16 + 16 = 32}$$

(continued)



Practicing Multiplication Combinations (page 2 of 2)

As they practice using the clues, students gradually come to know the combinations that are difficult for them.

Here are some suggestions to help your child learn the multiplication combinations (“facts”).

- Ask your child which multiplication combinations he or she is practicing.
- Find out what clues your child has chosen to help learn these combinations.
- Choose two or three of the combinations at a time to review together.