

# Year 4 Times Tables: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to year 4 times tables can help you support your child's learning at home. The subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when learning about year 4 times tables - either to support your child's homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. In this guide, you will find a step that matches your child's level of understanding and then have suggested activities which can be used to support that step.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.

Click here



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

# Times Tables

## Why Are Times Tables so Important?

Having a strong knowledge of the times tables will help children in other areas of maths, not just in school but throughout their lives. Times tables come into nearly every area of maths, such as fractions, ratio and proportion, division and multiplication, area and perimeter and much more.

By the end of year 4, children are expected to know all the times tables (up to  $12 \times 12$ ) and the related division facts, e.g. knowing that  $12 \div 4 = 3$  is a related fact to  $3 \times 4 = 12$ .

For this reason, times tables are first introduced in year 1 to give children the time and experience they need to master them. From year 1 to year 4, new times tables are introduced each year so that children can master them in stages.

## What Times Tables Are Children Expected to Know in Year 4?

Children will continue to practise the 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables which they learnt in years 2 and 3. Also, by the end of year 4, children are expected to:

- learn the 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 times tables multiplication facts (including the related division facts).

This guide will help you to support the learning of year 4 times tables at home. Each step contains an explanation of that stage and a link to an appropriate resource which can be used at home to support your child's learning.

As well as using the resources in this category and the keyword searches to help your child with times tables, below are a few ideas of games and activities to help your child to practise at home.

### Say the Next Number

This is a very simple but fun way to practise counting in steps. Simply choose a step you wish to count in with your child (such as 3s, 4s or 8s) and then start the sequence. Each person joining in has to say the next number in the sequence when it is their turn. For example, when counting in 8s the sequence would be: 8, 16, 24, 32, 40 and so forth.

### Quick Touch

This is a really fun way to practise times tables and all you need is a sheet of paper and a pen. Choose the times table you wish to practise and write all the multiples in that times table on the paper. They should be spread out, in random order and big enough to touch each number separately. Next, set a timer for one minute, ask quickfire multiplication questions (such as  $6 \times 4$  or  $7 \times 4$ ) and your child has to touch the right answer. Record how many times they get it right, play it again and see if they can beat their previous score.

### Times Tables Songs

There are a multitude of times tables songs online which you could use to help your child practise singing their times tables. Alternatively, you could make up your own times table song with your child. Simply choose a popular song or nursery rhyme your child knows really well and then change the lyrics so that they are the numbers of the times table your child is learning. This can be a really fun and enjoyable way to learn times tables.

### Times Tables Dance Mat

This fun activity involves touching the right answers with your feet - just like the dance games in an arcade. On twelve sheets of paper, write a multiple for a times table on each sheet (for example, if practising the 3s, write 3, 6, 9, 12 etc.). Then, make a circle of all the multiples with the numbers facing inwards. They should be in mixed order with space in the middle of the circle for a person to stand. Ask your child to stand in the middle. Say a multiplication question, such as  $8 \times 3$ , and they have to touch the correct answer with their foot. Do this repeatedly, gradually getting faster.

Below are steps which can be used for any times table, from introducing the times table to learning the division facts. You can follow this sequence for each of the 6, 7 and 9 times tables as you introduce them to your child.

## Step 1

### Counting in Multiples

When introducing a times table at home, it's always good practice to begin by counting in steps of that times table (e.g. 6, 12, 18, 24) and using practical resources and images to help your child understand counting in different amounts (such as counting petals on flowers or legs on insects).

At home, try this **KS2 Ultimate Home Guide to Times Tables Activity Pack** as the activity sheets in this pack contain visual images that can be used at home to help your child practise counting in multiples.



### Using Multiplication

Multiplication is a fast way to add the same number over and over again. For instance, if you are counting how many legs are on five dogs, you could count in a sequence of 4s (4 legs per dog: 4, 8, 12, 16, 20) or you could use multiplication to work this out quickly ( $5 \times 4 = 20$ ). At home, when you begin to practise individual times tables, you can relate this back to counting in sequences. For example, when you practise  $4 \times 6$  you can explain that this is the same as adding 6 repeatedly four times. Traditionally, children have learnt times tables through repetition and rote learning; however, there are many ways for you to practise times tables at home. In this **A Grown Up's Guide to Times Tables: How to Help Your Child Become a Times Tables Master Booklet**, you will find suggested games and activities you can do at home to help your child practise their times tables. Or try this **Times Tables Activity Pack** which contains an activity sheet for each times table. Your child can complete each sheet as they learn each times table.

Your child will need to practise each times table until they can say the multiplication facts in order (i.e.  $1 \times 3 = 3$ ,  $2 \times 3 = 6$  etc.) and they can answer a question in the times table at random (i.e.  $12 \times 3 =$  or  $7 \times 3 =$ ).

## Step 2

## Step 3

### Learning the Division Facts

Once children are familiar with times tables facts, both in order and in a mixed order, they can then start to learn the associated division facts. A division fact is the opposite (the inverse) of a known multiplication. For example, if you know that  $5 \times 9 = 45$ , the division facts are:  $45 \div 9 = 5$  or  $45 \div 5 = 9$ . Knowing the division facts can help your child in other areas of the maths curriculum, such as calculating equivalent fractions or working out the area of shapes, so it's helpful to have a good knowledge of the division facts.

At home, use these **Year 4 Ultimate Times Tables Daily Practice Booklets** which contain practice sheets that have both the multiplication and division questions for your child to practise.

## Step 4

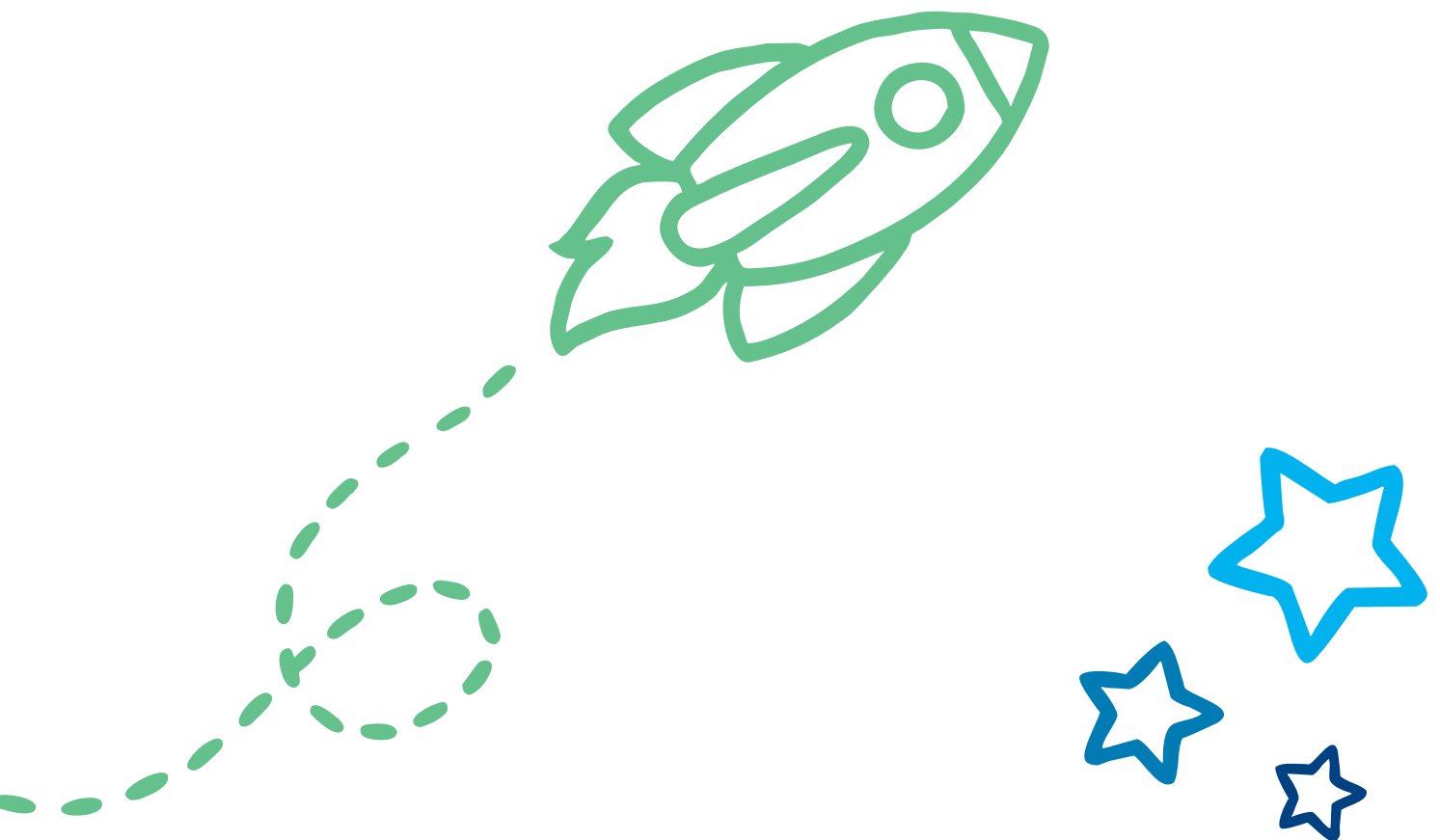
### Multiplication Problems

Once children know their times tables and related division facts, the next step is to apply their knowledge to word problems.

Try this **Year 4 Multiplication and Division Word Problems Worksheet** at home to help your child practise solving problems. You can support your child by helping them to understand what calculation they have to do in each problem by picking out the key information. For example, in the following problem:

The mechanic has to change all the tyres on the cars in the garage. Each car has four tyres. There are eight cars altogether. How many tyres does he have to change?

The key information is that there are 8 cars and each has 4 tyres so the calculation needed is  $8 \times 4$ . Once the calculation is known, the answer can be worked out using times tables:  $8 \times 4 = 32$ .



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