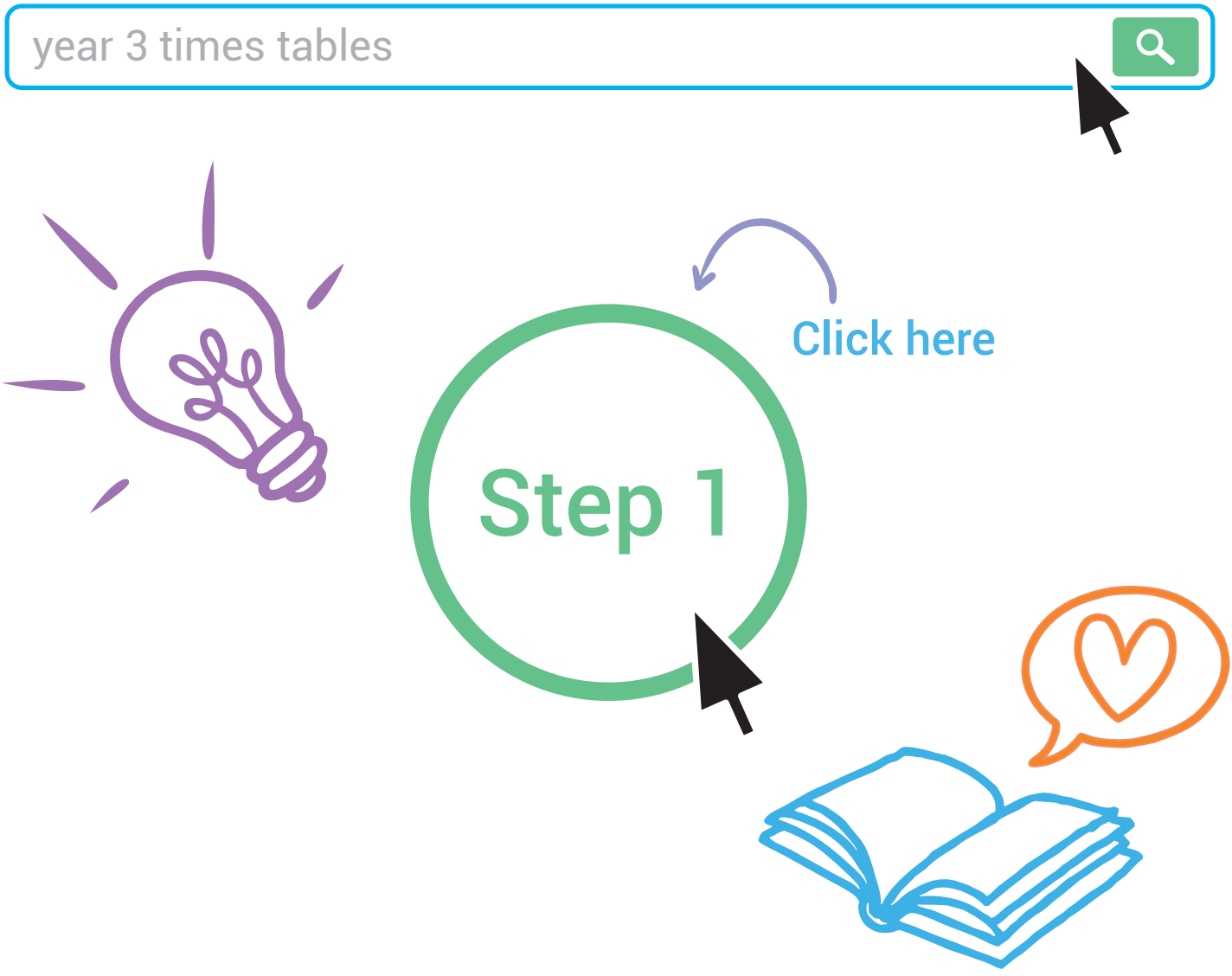
Year 3 Times Tables: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to year 3 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 3 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 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.



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 However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date.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 more.

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

Children will continue to practise the 2, 5 and 10 times tables which they learnt in year 2. By the end of year 3, children are also expected to be able to:

- count in multiples of 4 and 8;
- recall and use the multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4 and 8 times tables.

This guide will help you support the learning of year 3 times tables at home. Each step contains an explanation for 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 for games and activities to help your child practise place value and number at home.

Times Tables Dance Mat

This fun activity involves touching the right answer with your foot, like on a dance mat. Take 12 sheets of paper and write a multiple on each sheet (for example, if practicing the 3s, write 3, 6, 9, 12 and so on). Then, randomly arrange the multiples in a circle, with the numbers facing inwards. Ask your child to stand in the middle. Say a multiplication question, such as 8 × 3, and they must touch the correct answer with their foot. Repeat this and gradually get faster.

Times Table Song

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 add the numbers of the times table to the tune instead of the words. This can be a really fun and enjoyable way to learn times tables.

Say the Next Number

This is a 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. All you need is a sheet of paper and a pen. First, 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 randomly and big enough to touch each number separately. Next, set a timer for one minute, and ask quick-fire multiplication questions (e.g. 5 × 3, 7 × 3). Your child must touch the right answer. Record how many answers they get right in one minute. Then, play it again and see if they can beat their previous score.

Below are steps which can be used for any times table, going from introducing the times table to learning the division facts. You can follow this sequence for each of the 3, 4 and 8 times tables as you introduce them to your child.

Top tip: It is useful to teach the 4 times table before the 8 times table, as children can then see the link between the multiples of 4 and 8 (all the answers in the 8 times table are double those in the 4 times table).

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. 3, 6, 9, 12) and using practical resources and images to help your child understand counting in different amounts (such as counting the legs on four legged animals).

At home, try this **Year 3 Introduction to Multiplication (3s, 4s and 8s) Activity Pack**. The activity sheets in this pack contain useful images that you can use at home to help your child practise counting in multiples of 3, 4 and 8.

Step 2

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 5 dogs, you could count in a sequence (4, 8, 12, 16, 20) – or you could use multiplication to work this out quickly (5 × 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 practice 4 × 3, you can explain that this is the same as adding 3 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 3, 4 and 8 times tables. Or your child could try this **3, 4, 8 Times Table Multiplication Wheels Worksheet Pack** which can be printed and completed at home.

Your child will need to practise each times table until they can say the multiplication facts in order (1 × 3 = 3, 2 × 3 = 6…) and also be able to answer a question in that times table at random (e.g. 12 × 3 or 7 × 3).

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 operation) of a known multiplication. For example, if you know that 5 × 4 = 20, the related division facts are 20 ÷ 4 = 5 or 20 ÷ 5 = 4. Knowing the division facts will help your child in other areas of the maths curriculum (such as when doing fractions).

At home, try this **3, 4 and 8 Division PowerPoint Teaching Pack**. The activity sheets in this pack can be used to help your child practise the division facts and the images on the PowerPoint can help your child understand how the division facts are calculated.

Step 4

Multiplication Problems

Once children know the multiplication and division facts, the next stage in learning times tables is to apply their knowledge to problems. At school, children are encouraged to apply their knowledge of times tables to solve multiplication problems.

Try this **Year 3 Multiplication and Division Word Problems 3, 4, 8 Worksheet** at home to help your child practise solving problems. You can help your child to understand what calculation they have to do picking out the key information in the question. 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 she have to change?

The key information here is that there are 8 cars and that each car has 4 tyres. This means that the calculation needed is 8 lots of 4, or 8 × 4. Once your child knows the calculation, they can work the answer out using times tables: 8 × 4 = 32.

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Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire children from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!