

ROUNDING

This presentation will cover the rules for rounding measurements and calculations

The rules for rounding can vary. Here are the two most commonly-used sets of rounding rules:

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When performing measurements or calculations, you will often have to round the results.

"Easy" Method 1: If the number to the right of the number to be rounded is 4 or below, drop those numbers and keep the last digit the same. (1.44 becomes 1.4) If the number to the right of the number to rounded is 5 or above, round the last digit up, dropping the numbers after it. (1.36 becomes 1.4), *(1.45 becomes 1.5)

"Even/Odd" Method 2: If the number being dropped is 4, 3, 2 or 1 drop those numbers and keep the last digit the same. (1.44 becomes 1.4) If the number to the right of the number to be rounded is 6, 7, 8 or 9 round the last digit up one unit. (1.36 becomes 1.4)

If the number to be dropped is 5 and the number to the left is EVEN, keep the last digit the same. *(1.45 becomes 1.4) If the number to the left of the 5 is ODD, round the last digit up one unit.(1.35 becomes 1.4)

EXAMPLES OF ROUNDING "EASY" METHOD 1: IF THE NUMBER TO THE

RIGHT OF THE NUMBER TO BE ROUNDED IS 4 OR BELOW, DROP THOSE NUMBERS AND KEEP THE LAST DIGIT THE SAME. IF THE NUMBER TO THE RIGHT OF THE NUMBER TO ROUNDED IS 5 OR ABOVE, ROUND THE LAST DIGIT UP, DROPPING THE NUMBERS AFTER IT.

Round each of the following measurements to 3 significant figures.

> 3.586 cm	rounds to	3.59 cm
0.000 0111	100110310	

▶ 17.51 g rounds to	17.5 g
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0.017001112	> 0.01733 mL	rounds to	0.0173 mL
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► 18.725 s	rounds to	18.7 s
10.7 20 3	100110310	

EXAMPLES OF ROUNDING EVEN/ODD METHOD 2: IF THE NUMBER

TO THE LEFT OF THE 5 IS EVEN, DROP THOSE NUMBERS AND KEEP THE LAST DIGIT THE SAME. IF THE NUMBER TO THE LEFT OF THE 5 IS ODD, ROUND THE LAST DIGIT UP, DROPPING THE NUMBERS AFTER IT.)

Round each of the following measurements to 3 significant figures.

3.1	52	mg

rounds to

3.15 mg

rounds to

0.182 m

rounds to

1.22 L

▶ 1.3459999999 km

rounds to

1.34 km

>0.001295 g

rounds to

0.00130 g

► 1.485 x 10⁻⁵ s

rounds to

1.48 x 10⁻⁵ s