

How to use this book

Rapid recall of times tables facts up to 12×12 by the end of Year 4 is a key expectation for all children in England. In fact, so key that all children will sit a Times Tables Check at the end of Year 4 from 2020.

Why are the times tables important?

They support mathematical learning and understanding. If you know your times tables, this frees up space to learn and work on new mathematical concepts and problems. And, as you know, we use them all the time in daily life, for example we use them when working out costs, doubling recipes or finding out how much we will need of something (for example, *we need to put 6 chairs at each of the 8 tables. 8×6 , we'll need 48 chairs.*)

How does *Times Tables* help children master multiplication?

This *Practice Book* aims to give children the chance to practise their times tables, deepening their understanding as well as increasing their rapid recall. This means they understand the 'how and why' of multiplication as well as being able to answer multiplication facts quickly. They will understand, for example:

- ▶ You can multiply two numbers in any order and the answer will be the same:
If you know $2 \times 5 = 10$, then you know $5 \times 2 = 10$.
- ▶ You can break up a multiplication fact:
Don't remember 6×4 ? What if you think about it as $4 \times 4 + 2 \times 4$?
- ▶ Multiplication is repeated addition:
 $7 \times 2 = 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2$
 $8 \times 2 = 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2$
This means that if you know that $7 \times 2 = 14$, then 8×2 will be two more.

How can you help?

- ▶ Encourage short bursts of practice. Focus on a couple of tables in the first instance and move on to others once your child is confident.
- ▶ Talk about the times tables. Encourage your child to think about what they know and explain their thinking. You'll have opportunities to do this throughout this *Practice Book* as well.
- ▶ Look for real-life situations for your child to use the times tables. Seeing how you use what you know and showing off what you already know is a great motivator.
- ▶ Remind your child that our brains are growing when we make mistakes. Celebrate this growth!
- ▶ Speed may be important but can also cause many children anxiety. Focus on understanding multiplication and rehearsing the times tables in fun ways. Speed will come in time!

Track your progress online using our *free* Times Tables Check:
www.scholastic.co.uk/timestables