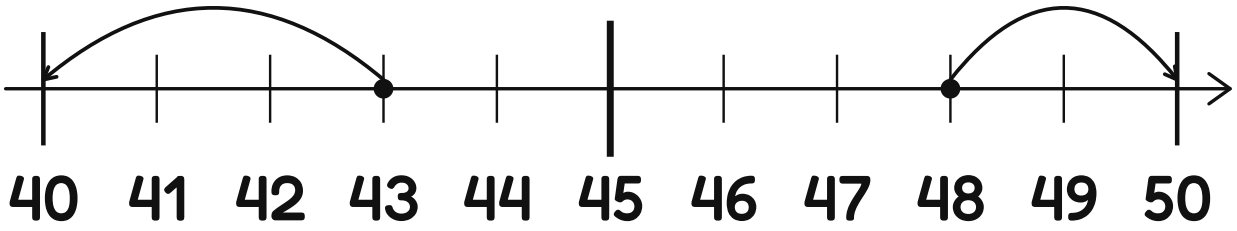
Rounding Chart

Which ten is it closer to? Round to the closer ten, or the closer hundred.

Which ten is it closer to?



43 is closer to 40, so it rounds to 40.
48 is closer to 50, so it rounds to 50.
45 is halfway. Halfway rounds up: 45 rounds to 50.

The rule in three steps

1. Find the place you are rounding to: tens for the nearest ten, hundreds for the nearest hundred.
2. Look at the digit just to its right.
3. Round down or up:

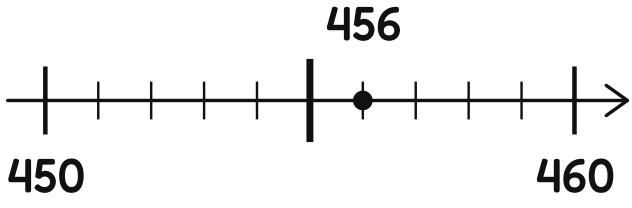
Round down. 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4: keep the place digit and change every digit to its right to 0. 43 becomes 40.

Round up. 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9: add one to the place digit and change every digit to its right to 0. 47 becomes 50.

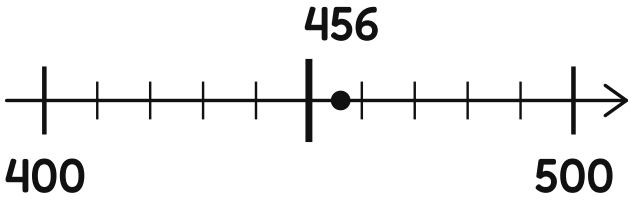
What about a 5?

A number exactly halfway rounds up: 35 rounds to 40, and 250 rounds to 300.

Nearest ten and nearest hundred: 456



To the nearest ten: 456 rounds to 460.
The ones digit decides.



To the nearest hundred: 456 rounds to 500.
The tens digit decides.

For Grown-Ups: How to Use These Charts

A chart to keep on the fridge or in the homework folder. For third grade. Print it before the worksheets.

Why use it

Rounding asks which ten, or which hundred, a number is closer to. Third graders round to the nearest 10 and 100 (Common Core 3.NBT.A.1, Texas 3.4(B)), and schools show it on a number line first, so a child can see which ten is closer before learning the rule as a shortcut.

What it is good for

- The 40 to 50 line: 43 is closer to 40, and 48 is closer to 50.
- The rule in three steps, and what to do with a 5.
- 456 rounded to the nearest ten and to the nearest hundred, side by side.

How to use it

1. Point at the line. Ask which ten 43 is closer to, and count the marks to each end.
2. Read the rule, then check it on the line: the 3 in 43 means round down, and the line agrees.
3. Read the 5 together. A number exactly halfway rounds up in school, so 35 rounds to 40.
4. Use the side by side to show that the nearest hundred looks at the tens digit, not the ones.

> **Try saying:** “Which two tens is it between? Which one is it closer to?”

Tip: Halfway rounds up is the convention US schools teach. The Common Core writers note that the standards do not specify a method, so if homework differs, follow the class.