

Long Division

Single unit division

To teach long division, we will build from a very simple problem to a more complex one. We begin by dividing the following:

$\begin{array}{r} \underline{1} \\ 9)1234 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} \underline{1} \\ 9)1234 \\ 9 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} \underline{1} \\ 9)1234 \\ \underline{9} \\ 3 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} \underline{1} \\ 9)1234 \\ \underline{9} \\ 3 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} \underline{1} \\ 9)1234 \\ \underline{9} \\ 33 \end{array}$
9 divides into 12 by 1	we multiply 1 times 9	Subtract 9 from 12	check by adding 3 to 9 getting 12	Bring down the next number (3) in the dividend

Now we repeat the process with the 33 being used instead of the 12.

$\begin{array}{r} \underline{13} \\ 9)1234 \\ \underline{9} \\ 33 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} \underline{13} \\ 9)1234 \\ \underline{9} \\ 33 \\ 27 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} \underline{13} \\ 9)1234 \\ \underline{9} \\ 33 \\ \underline{27} \\ 6 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} \underline{13} \\ 9)1234 \\ \underline{9} \\ 33 \\ \underline{27} \\ 6 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} \underline{13} \\ 9)1234 \\ \underline{9} \\ 33 \\ \underline{27} \\ 64 \end{array}$
9 divides into 33 by 3	we multiply 3 times 9	Subtract 27 from 33	check by adding 6 to 27 getting 33	Bring down the next number (4) in the dividend

Now we repeat the process with the 64 being used instead of the 33

$\begin{array}{r} \underline{137} \\ 9)1234 \\ \underline{9} \\ 33 \\ \underline{27} \\ 64 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} \underline{137} \\ 9)1234 \\ \underline{9} \\ 33 \\ \underline{27} \\ 64 \\ 63 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} \underline{137} \\ 9)1234 \\ \underline{9} \\ 33 \\ \underline{27} \\ 64 \\ \underline{63} \\ 1 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} \underline{137} \\ 9)1234 \\ \underline{9} \\ 33 \\ \underline{27} \\ 64 \\ \underline{63} \\ 1 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} \underline{137} \\ 9)1234 \\ \underline{9} \\ 33 \\ \underline{27} \\ 64 \\ \underline{63} \\ 1 \end{array}$
9 divides into 64 by 7	we multiply 7 times 9	Subtract 63 from 64	check by adding 1 to 63 getting 64	Since there are no more numbers the 1 is considered the remainder

After your child can do this problem quickly with lots of practice, have him/her do all the work in his/her head so that it looks like this:

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{137} \text{ R}1 \\ 9)1234 \end{array}$$

Two digit division

We are now going to divide 93 into the same number:

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{1} \\ 93)1234 \end{array}$$

9 divides
into 12,1

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{1} \\ 93)1234 \\ 93 \end{array}$$

Multiply 93
by 1

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{1} \\ 93)1234 \\ \underline{93} \\ 30 \end{array}$$

subtract 93
from 123 and
Check results

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{1} \\ 93)1234 \\ \underline{93} \\ 304 \end{array}$$

bring down the 4

We just look at the leading digit of the divisor to get the trial divisor of 1.

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{13} \\ 93)1234 \\ \underline{93} \\ 304 \end{array}$$

9 divides
into 30 of
the 304,
for 3

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{13} \\ 93)1234 \\ \underline{93} \\ 304 \\ \underline{273} \end{array}$$

Multiply 93
by 3

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{13} \\ 93)1234 \\ \underline{93} \\ 304 \\ \underline{273} \\ 29 \end{array}$$

subtract 273
from 304 and
check results

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{13} \text{ R } 29 \\ 93)1234 \\ \underline{93} \\ 304 \\ \underline{273} \\ 29 \end{array}$$

Remainder is 29

You will notice that we only use the leading digit of the divisor to find a trial quotient. We will use 1 or 2 digits of the dividend, This mental arithmetic saves us a lot of wasted writing.

Three digit divisor

In doing our mental arithmetic, we note when we multiply two digits we get one or two for an answer:

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \quad 9 \\ \underline{x3} \quad \underline{x7} \\ 6 \quad 63 \end{array}$$

Thus when we are using a trial divisor we may use the first or first two digits of the dividend to get a trial quotient. When we test this trial quotient, we multiply by the first two digits of divisor because the carry might cause the number to be bigger than anticipated. This allows us to do mental arithmetic

$\overline{937) 4407648}$ in your head $44/9 = 4$ $4 \times 93 = 372$ which is < 440

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{4} \\ 937)4407648 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{4} \\ 937)440768 \\ 3748 \end{array}$$

multiply

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{4} \\ 937)440768 \\ \underline{3748} \\ 659 \end{array}$$

subtract and check
 $659 < 937$

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{4} \\ 937)440768 \\ \underline{3748} \\ 6596 \end{array}$$

bring down the 6

in your head $65/9 = 7$ $7 \times 93 = 651$ which is < 659

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{47} \\ 937)4407648 \\ \underline{3748} \\ 6596 \\ \underline{6559} \\ 37 \end{array}$$

$937 > 37$
thus 0
is trial
quotient

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{470} \\ 937)4407648 \\ \underline{3748} \\ 6596 \\ \underline{6559} \\ 374 \end{array}$$

bring down 4

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{470} \\ 937)4407648 \\ \underline{3748} \\ 6596 \\ \underline{6559} \\ 3748 \end{array}$$

$937 > 374$
bring down 8

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{4704} \\ 937)4407648 \\ \underline{3748} \\ 6596 \\ \underline{6559} \\ 3748 \\ \underline{3748} \end{array}$$

With these instructions, you can now divide by five or more digits