

Vedic maths tricks for kids: the eight tricks on one page

Before any trick, the tables to 12 must be automatic. The age is the earliest that works in our classes.

Trick	Age	How	Example
1. Multiply by 11	7+	Write the first digit, then the sum of each pair of neighbours, then the last digit; carry when a sum passes 9	43×11 : 4, 4+3, 3 = 473. 78×11 : 7, 15, 8 → 858
2. Square a number ending in 5	8+	Multiply the tens digit by one more than itself, then write 25	$35^2 = 3 \times 4$ then 25 = 1225. $105^2 = 10 \times 11$, 25 = 11025
3. Two numbers near 100	9+	Deficits from 100; left part = one number minus the other's deficit; right part = product of deficits (two digits)	97×96 : deficits 3, 4; $97 - 4 = 93$; $3 \times 4 = 12$ → 9312
4. Vertically and crosswise	10+	Right: units $\times$ units. Middle: cross-multiply and add. Left: tens $\times$ tens. Carry leftward	23×41 : 3; $2 \times 1 + 3 \times 4 = 14$ (write 4 carry 1); $2 \times 4 + 1 = 9$ → 943
5. Doubling and halving	8+	Halve one number, double the other, until it is easy	$16 \times 35 = 8 \times 70 = 4 \times 140 = 560$
6. Multiply by 5, 25, 50	8+	By 5: halve, then $\times 10$. By 25: quarter, then $\times 100$. By 50: halve, then $\times 100$	$48 \times 5 = 24 \times 10 = 240$. $36 \times 25 = 9 \times 100 = 900$
7. Subtract from 1,000	8+	Each digit from 9, the last from 10	$1000 - 357$: 9-3, 9-5, 10-7 = 643
8. Check with digit sums	9+	Reduce each number to a single digit by adding digits; the answer's digit sum must match the product of the others'	$23 \times 41 = 943$: $5 \times 5 = 25 \rightarrow 7$; $9+4+3 = 16 \rightarrow 7$. Matches

Which trick when

Age	Start with	Add later
7 to 8	Multiply by 11; doubling and halving	Multiply by 5
8 to 9	Squares ending in 5; subtract from 1,000; by 25 and 50	Digit-sum check
9 to 10	Near 100	
10 and up	Vertically and crosswise	Near 1,000; three-digit crosswise

Practice: thirty questions, one trick each row

By 11: a) 52×11 b) 36×11 c) 67×11 d) 89×11

Squares ending in 5: a) 25^2 b) 45^2 c) 75^2 d) 115^2

Near 100: a) 98×97 b) 95×93 c) 92×99 d) 88×96

Vertically and crosswise: a) 21×32 b) 34×12 c) 42×23 d) 27×35

Doubling and halving: a) 14×25 b) 18×45 c) 24×15 d) 32×125

By 5, 25, 50: a) 64×5 b) 44×25 c) 38×50 d) 73×5

From 1,000: a) $1000 - 246$ b) $1000 - 809$ c) $10000 - 3571$ d) $1000 - 99$

Digit-sum check: is each right? a) $34 \times 12 = 408$ b) $27 \times 35 = 955$

Answers

11: 572, 396, 737, 979. Squares: 625, 2025, 5625, 13225. Near 100: 9506, 8835, 9108, 8448. Crosswise: 672, 408, 966, 945. Doubling: 350, 810, 360, 4000. 5/25/50: 320, 1100, 1900, 365. From 1,000: 754, 191, 6429, 901. Check: a) $7 \times 3 = 21 \rightarrow 3$; $4+0+8 = 12 \rightarrow 3$, right. b) $9 \times 8 = 72 \rightarrow 9$; $9+5+5 = 19 \rightarrow 1$, wrong (it is 945).

The ten-minute plan

Day 1 to 3: one trick, ten questions a day, said aloud. Day 4: the same trick with a timer the child sets. Day 5: mixed questions with the older tricks. One new trick a week; the digit-sum check on everything from week 3.

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