

MATH · Y1–Y6

Cross-Number Puzzles

Number crosswords — three levels

a cross-number puzzle

It is a crossword — but with numbers

- A cross-number puzzle works like a crossword, but the answers are numbers, not words.
- Each clue gives you a calculation — solve it and write one digit in each square.
- ACROSS clues fill in rows left to right.
- DOWN clues fill in columns top to bottom.
- Important: every crossing square must satisfy both its ACROSS and DOWN clue simultaneously.
- Strategy: solve the clues you are most confident about first — these give you digits that help with the harder ones.
- Check your answers: if a digit doesn't fit both clues, something has gone wrong.

Level 1 clues — KS1 (simple arithmetic)

- ACROSS: 1-across: $25 + 43$. 2-across: 10×7 . 3-across: $90 - 27$.
- DOWN: 1-down: Double 34. 2-down: $100 - 29$. 3-down: 5×13 .
- (A printed grid with numbered squares is needed to solve — use as a classroom-projected puzzle or draw the grid on the board)

Level 2 clues — KS2 multi-step



- ACROSS: 1A: 15×12 . 3A: $300 \div 4$. 5A: $17^2 - 100$. 7A: The value of DCCCXLII in digits.
- DOWN: 1D: 25% of 720. 2D: $5^3 + 2$. 4D: 19×19 . 6D: The smallest prime number greater than 80.
- Extension: Design your own cross-number puzzle — write the clues and draw the grid for a partner to solve.

