

FUNCTIONAL SKILLS MATHS LEVEL 2

COMMON MISTAKES GUIDE

Name: _____

Date: _____

Why Do Learners Lose Marks?

Many learners think they lose marks because the maths is difficult. In reality, a large number of marks are lost through simple mistakes that can be avoided.

By understanding the most common errors and learning how to spot them, you can improve your exam performance and increase your chances of passing Functional Skills Maths Level 2.

Top Tip

- ★ Read the question carefully.
 - ★ Show your working out.
 - ★ Include units where needed.
 - ★ Check your answer makes sense.
-

Common Mistake 1: Not Reading the Question Properly

Example

A television costs **£480**.

It is reduced by **25%**.

What is the **sale price**?

Incorrect Answer

25% of £480 = £120

Why Is This Wrong?

The question asks for the sale price, not the discount amount.

Correct Method

Discount:

$£480 \times 25\% = £120$

Sale Price:

$$£480 - £120 = £360$$

Your Turn

A bicycle costs £320 and is reduced by 10%.

What is the sale price?

Answer: _____

Common Mistake 2: Forgetting Units

Example

A bag weighs 4.5 kilograms.

Incorrect Answer

4.5

Correct Answer

4.5 kg

Why Is This Important?

Without units, your answer may be incomplete.

Practice

Write the correct units for:

Measurement	Unit
Distance travelled by a car	_____
Weight of a bag of sugar	_____
Cost of a meal	_____
Length of a classroom	_____

Common Mistake 3: Confusing Area and Perimeter

Example

Rectangle:

Length = 8 cm

Width = 5 cm

Incorrect Answer

Area = 26 cm

Correct Answers

Area = $8 \times 5 = 40 \text{ cm}^2$

Perimeter = $8 + 8 + 5 + 5 = 26 \text{ cm}$

Remember

Area = Inside

Perimeter = Around the edge

Practice

Find the area and perimeter of a rectangle measuring:

Length = 10 cm

Width = 4 cm

Area = _____

Perimeter = _____

Common Mistake 4: Rounding Too Early

Example

Question:

Calculate:

23.7×4.6

Incorrect Method

Round first:

$24 \times 5 = 120$

Better Method

Use the exact values first.

Round only if the question asks you to.

Practice

Calculate:

$$18.4 \times 3.7$$

Answer: _____

Common Mistake 5: Unit Conversion Errors

Example

2.5 metres + 80 centimetres

Incorrect Answer

82.5 metres

Correct Method

Convert first:

$$2.5 \text{ m} = 250 \text{ cm}$$

$$250 \text{ cm} + 80 \text{ cm} = 330 \text{ cm}$$

OR

$$2.5 \text{ m} + 0.8 \text{ m} = 3.3 \text{ m}$$

Practice

Convert and calculate:

3 metres + 40 centimetres

Answer: _____

Common Mistake 6: Ratio Problems

Example

Share £60 in the ratio 2 : 3

Incorrect Answer

£20 and £30

Correct Method

Total parts:

$$2 + 3 = 5$$

One part:

$$£60 \div 5 = £12$$

Shares:

$$2 \text{ parts} = £24$$

$$3 \text{ parts} = £36$$

Practice

Share £84 in the ratio 3 : 4

Answer:

Spot the Mistake Activity

Read each answer below.

Identify the mistake and write the correct answer.

Question 1

20% of £150

Student Answer:

£170

Mistake:

Correct Answer:

Question 2

Area of rectangle:

6 cm × 5 cm

Student Answer:

22 cm

Mistake:

Correct Answer:

Question 3

A train arrives at 14:35 and leaves at 15:20.

Student Answer:

45 minutes

Mistake:

Correct Answer:

Question 4

Convert 2 kg into grams.

Student Answer:

200 g

Mistake:

Correct Answer:

Exam Practice Questions

1

A laptop costs £650.

It is reduced by 15%.

What is the sale price?

2

Share £120 in the ratio 2 : 3.

3

A rectangle measures 12 cm by 7 cm.

Calculate the area.

4

Convert 2.5 kg into grams.

5

A journey starts at 09:45 and finishes at 11:20.

How long did the journey take?

6

Calculate 35% of £240.

7

A classroom is 8 m long and 6 m wide.

Find the perimeter.

8

Convert 4.2 metres into centimetres.

9

A graph shows 120 visitors on Monday and 175 visitors on Tuesday.

What is the difference?

10

A recipe needs 750 g of flour.

How many kilograms is this?

Exam Technique Checklist

Before handing in your exam, ask yourself:

- Have I answered every question?
 - Have I shown my working out?
 - Have I included units?
 - Have I checked calculator answers?
 - Have I used the correct method?
 - Have I answered what the question asks?
 - Have I checked my conversions?
 - Does my answer make sense?
-

Reflection

My Three Most Common Mistakes

1.

2.

3.

My Action Plan

ANSWERS

Your Turn

Sale price = £288

Units:

Distance = km

Weight = kg

Cost = £

Length = m

Area = 40 cm²

Perimeter = 28 cm

$18.4 \times 3.7 = 68.08$

$3 \text{ m} + 40 \text{ cm} = 3.4 \text{ m}$

Ratio 3 : 4

Shares = £36 and £48

Spot the Mistake

Q1

Correct answer = £30

20% of £150 = £30

Q2

Correct answer = 30 cm²

Area = length \times width

Q3

Correct answer = 45 minutes

(No mistake)

Q4

Correct answer = 2000 g

Exam Practice Answers

1. £552.50
 2. £48 and £72
 3. 84 cm²
 4. 2500 g
 5. 1 hour 35 minutes
 6. £84
 7. 28 m
 8. 420 cm
 9. 55 visitors
 10. 0.75 kg
-

Teacher Notes

This worksheet can be used as:

- A revision lesson
- An intervention session
- Homework
- Independent study
- Exam preparation activity

Encourage learners to explain *why* each mistake occurred, not just find the correct answer. This helps develop stronger exam technique and reduces repeated errors in future assessments.