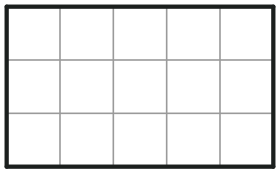
How Area Works

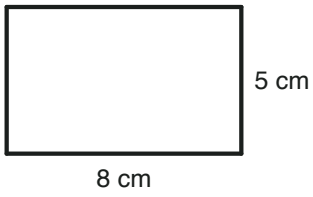
Square units, rectangles, composite figures and the difference between area and perimeter.

1. Area is the space inside a shape



Area is measured in **square units**. This rectangle covers 15 squares, so its area is 15 square units.
You do not have to count every square: there are 3 rows of 5, and **3 × 5 = 15**.

2. Rectangles: multiply length by width



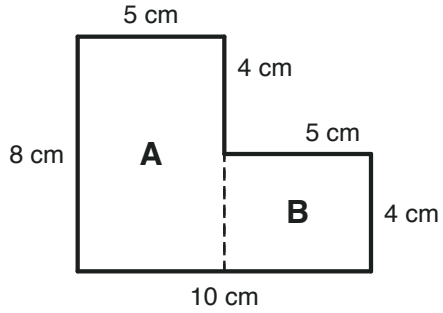
Area = length × width

8 × 5 = 40 sq cm

Always name the unit. Area uses **square** units: sq cm, sq m, sq in, sq ft. You may also see these written cm² or ft².

3. Composite figures: split into rectangles

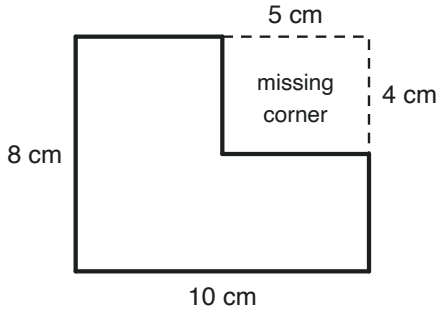
Way 1: split it and add



A: 5 × 8 = 40 B: 5 × 4 = 20

40 + 20 = 60 sq cm

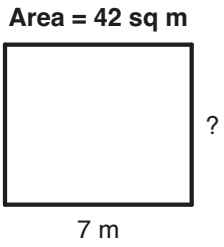
Way 2: whole rectangle minus the corner



Whole: 10 × 8 = 80 Corner: 5 × 4 = 20

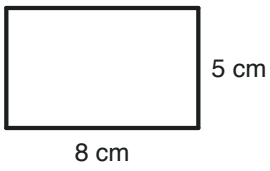
80 – 20 = 60 sq cm

4. Missing side: divide



Divide the area by the side you know.
42 ÷ 7 = 6 m

5. Area is not perimeter



Perimeter goes around:
8 + 5 + 8 + 5 = **26 cm**
Area fills the inside:
8 × 5 = **40 sq cm**

Try it: A rectangle is 9 cm by 4 cm. **Area = _____ sq cm** **Perimeter = _____ cm**

Answers: 36 sq cm, 26 cm