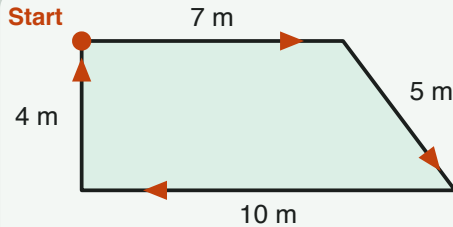


How Perimeter Works

Grade 3 · The distance around a shape, perimeter against area, rectangles and missing sides.

1. Perimeter is the distance around a shape

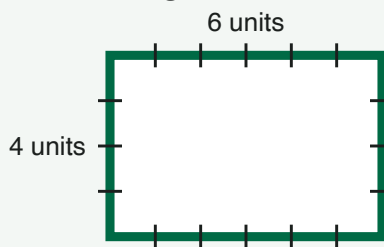


Think of a fence around a yard, or a walk around the block. The **perimeter** is how far it is all the way around. To find it, **add every side**.

$$7 + 5 + 10 + 4 = 26 \text{ m}$$

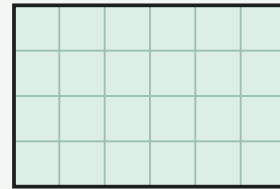
2. Perimeter is not area

Perimeter goes around the edge



$$6 + 4 + 6 + 4 = 20 \text{ units}$$

Area fills the inside



$$4 \text{ rows of } 6 = 24 \text{ square units}$$

Same rectangle, two different answers. Perimeter is a **length**. Area is a count of **squares**.

3. Rectangles: two sides are enough



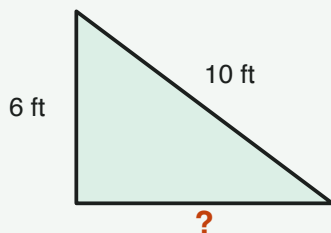
The opposite sides of a rectangle are the same length. So two labels tell you all four sides: 9, 5, 9 and 5.

Way 1. Add all four sides. $9 + 5 + 9 + 5 = 28 \text{ cm}$

Way 2. Double each side, then add. $9 + 9 = 18$ and $5 + 5 = 10$, so $18 + 10 = 28 \text{ cm}$

4. Find a missing side

Perimeter = 24 ft



Add the sides you know.

$$10 + 6 = 16$$

Subtract that from the perimeter.

$$24 - 16 = 8 \text{ ft}$$

5. Watch out

Count every side. A rectangle has 4 sides, even when only 2 are labelled.

Do not multiply the sides. That finds the area, not the perimeter.

Write the unit: cm, m, in or ft. Square units are for area.

Try it: A rectangle is 7 m long and 2 m wide.

Each side of a square is 8 in long.

Perimeter = _____ m

Perimeter = _____ in

Answers: 18 m, 32 in