

Everyday maths: Doing maths with mobile devices

NARRATOR:

With powerful gadgets in our pockets, does learning maths make sense?

Let's look at what it means to do everyday maths.

It's more than just calculations, you know...

Splitting a bill between friends after a meal. How much should each person pay?

If you give AI this information, it will suggest several possible solutions.

You will need to ask questions in a logical order to get an answer that works for your situation.

It helps to think about everyday maths through these five steps:

Formulate your question in a mathematical way.

Do the calculations.

Check your calculations.

Sense-check your answer.

Present your answer.

Formulating and sense-checking are the most important steps to ensure that AI works out the correct answer.

For every question you ask, you need to be sure that the answer you get makes sense.

How do you ask your AI app the correct questions so that it does the correct calculations?

How do you sense-check?

First, you need to gather all the information available.

Break the problem up into smaller parts: How much each person pays for food. How much each person pays for alcohol. The total each person pays. Then ask AI to work out how much each person pays.

Check that the answer makes sense.

Here, the skills we need are estimating and rounding numbers.

To estimate, try to use numbers that are easier to work with. We call this rounding.

Then, work out what the answer would roughly be using these numbers as a sense-check.

There are many situations where we can use AI apps to do the calculations.

But remember that AI is not perfect and it's not all free. Even with AI, you still need to formulate the problem mathematically to get usable answers that you can sense-check easily.

To start your own journey and practice your maths resilience, sign up for our free Everyday Maths Northern Ireland courses on OpenLearn today.