Multiplication Hints & Techniques Ms. Liang, Grade 7

Solve: **6 x 4 = \_\_\_\_**

Hint #1: Memorize your multiplication tables.

I recommend memorizing your multiplication facts up to 10 (at least). It will certainly take some time, but often it is easier to come up with the answer immediately. This skill will be especially helpful when you progress to higher grades in your school career.

Hint #2 Draw an array.

This is a good method for multiplication facts with smaller numbers. First draw 6 circles, or tallies, in a row:

o o o o o o

Then, draw a few more rows of 6 underneath, so that you have 4 rows in all, and count up all the circles:

o o o o o o

o o o o o o

o o o o o o

o o o o o o

Hint #3 Add it up.

This can be time-consuming, especially if you’re using higher numbers. It relies on your skills of adding and keeping track. Worse, if you make one tiny mistake along the way, you will get the wrong answer!

Add 6 four times. Or, add 4 six times.

**6** + **6** = 12 + **6** = 18 + **6** = 24 **4** + **4** = 8 + **4** = 12 + **4** = 16 + **4** = 20 + **4** = 24

Hint #4 Break it down.

This is my favourite hint! It allows you to use mental math, and you only need to memorize a few multiplication facts. Think of two easier multiplication facts for **6** (or **4**) that you already know:

 **6** x 2 = 12 **4** x 5 = 20

 + **6** x 2 = 12 + **4** x 1 = 4

 6 x 4 = 24 4 x 6 = 24