

Rounding to the nearest ten introduction

This works best as a real number line made on the classroom floor with masking tape, walked and pointed to directly, rather than relying on the small printed mat as the main tool.

1 Which ten is it closer to?

Show the number line mat and count the tens along it together.

"Here are all the tens from zero to one hundred. Can you count them with me?"

Place a pointer card at 28, between 20 and 30.

"Twenty-eight is between twenty and thirty. Which one is it closer to?"

Count the gap on each side of the pointer to check which ten is nearer.

"From twenty-eight back to twenty is eight steps. From twenty-eight up to thirty is two steps. Thirty is closer, so twenty-eight rounds to thirty."

Move the pointer to 41, closer to the lower ten this time.

"Forty-one is only one step from forty, but nine steps from fifty. Forty-one rounds to forty."

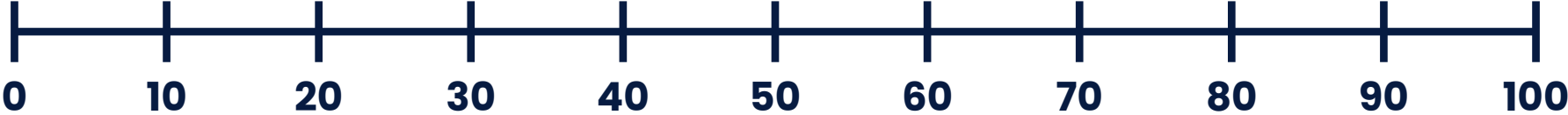
Move the pointer to the tricky middle case, 45, exactly halfway. Explain the rule: when it is exactly in the middle, round up.

"Forty-five is exactly in the middle — five steps either way. When a number is exactly in the middle, we round up. Forty-five rounds to fifty."

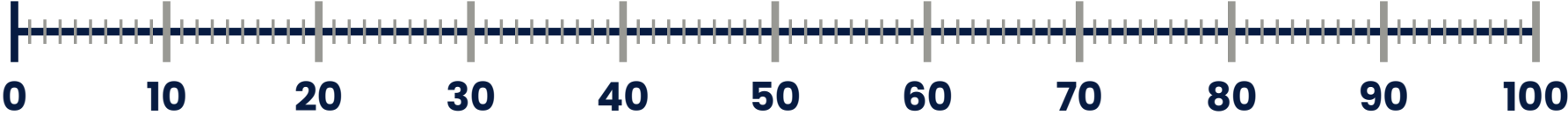
Show a common mistake: rounding down at the halfway point instead of up. Check it: is the number exactly in the middle, and does the rule say round up?

"I rounded forty-five down to forty. But forty-five is exactly halfway — the rule says round up, so it should be fifty."

Number line mat — demonstration



Number line mat — with ones marked — demonstration



Pointer cards — demonstration

