

Multiplication without calculator

Sometimes we need to multiply decimal numbers. It seems to be horrible without calculator. But I think we could multiply such numbers by heart. The example

$$2.3 \times 3.8 = ?$$

How to solve it by heart? Easily. Only to multiply lower limits and upper limits. What does it mean? The lower limits are numbers 2 and 3. The upper limits are numbers 3 and 4. Then

$$2 \times 3 = 6 \quad 3 \times 4 = 12$$

The result must lie between numbers 6 and 12. The result is not a number close to 6 or close to 12 or a number close to 7 or 11. I think the result we could expect is the number close to 9. I estimate the number around 8.5. Let's go for the result by using of a calculator - **$2.3 \times 3.8 = 8.74$**

I was wrong for 0.2. Let's go for a next task:

$$1.1 \times 8,9 = ?$$

$$1 \times 8 = 8$$

$$2 \times 9 = 18$$

I feel the result is close to 9. The right result is 9.79. I was wrong for a number around 0.8. It is quit a lot. Nearly 1.0

Next task again:

$$2.8 \times 7,8 = ?$$

$$2 \times 7 = 14$$

$$3 \times 8 = 24$$

The result is estimated to 22. The right result is 21.84. Perfect! The mistake is under 0.2

What to say? If we train such experience for a long time then we could give quit good results easily. We have a slide rule in our heart. In situations as off-road conditions, exciting situations etc.