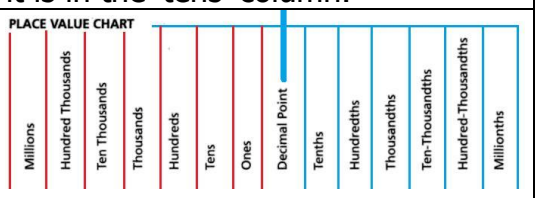
Topic: Accuracy & Rounding

Topic/Skill	Definition/Tips	Example
1. Place Value	The **value** of where a **digit** is within a number.	In 726, the value of the 2 is 20, as it is in the 'tens' column.
2. Place Value Columns	The names of the columns that **determine the value of each digit**. The 'ones' column is also known as the 'units' column.	
3. Rounding	To make a number simpler but keep its value close to what it was. If the **digit to the right** of the rounding digit is **less than 5, round down**. If the **digit to the right** of the rounding digit is **5 or more, round up**.	74 rounded to the nearest ten is 70, because 74 is closer to 70 than 80. 152,879 rounded to the nearest thousand is 153,000.
4. Decimal Place	The **position** of a digit to the **right of a decimal point**.	In the number 0.372, the 7 is in the second decimal place. 0.372 rounded to two decimal places is 0.37, because the 2 tells us to round down. Careful with money - don't write £27.4, instead write £27.40
5. Significant Figure	The significant figures of a number are the digits which **carry meaning** (ie. are significant) to the size of the number. The **first significant figure** of a number **cannot be zero**. In a number with a decimal, trailing zeros are not significant.	In the number 0.00821, the first significant figure is the 8. In the number 2.740, the 0 is not a significant figure. 0.00821 rounded to 2 significant figures is 0.0082. 19357 rounded to 3 significant figures is 19400. We need to include the two zeros at the end to keep the digits in the same place value columns.
6. Truncation	A method of approximating a decimal number by **dropping all decimal places** past a certain point **without rounding**.	3.14159265… can be truncated to 3.1415 (note that if it had been rounded, it would become 3.1416)
7. Error Interval	A **range of values** that a number could have taken before being rounded or truncated.	0.6 has been rounded to 1 decimal place.

	An error interval is written using inequalities, with a **lower bound** and an **upper bound**. Note that the lower bound inequality can be 'equal to', but the upper bound cannot be 'equal to'.	The error interval is: $0.55 \leq x < 0.65$ The lower bound is 0.55 The upper bound is 0.65
8. Estimate	To find something **close to the correct answer**.	An estimate for the height of a man is 1.8 metres.
9. Approximation	When using approximations to estimate the solution to a calculation, **round each number in the calculation to 1 significant figure**. $\approx$ means 'approximately equal to'	$\frac{348+692}{0.526} \approx \frac{300+700}{0.5} = 2000$ 'Note that dividing by 0.5 is the same as multiplying by 2'
10. Rational Number	A number of the form $\frac{p}{q}$, where p **and** q **are integers** and $q \neq 0$. A number that cannot be written in this form is called an 'irrational' number	$\frac{4}{9}, 6, -\frac{1}{3}, \sqrt{25}$ are examples of rational numbers. $\pi, \sqrt{2}$ are examples of an irrational numbers.
11. Surd	The **irrational number** that is a **root of a positive integer,** whose value cannot be determined exactly. Surds have **infinite non-recurring decimals**.	$\sqrt{2}$ is a surd because it is a root which cannot be determined exactly. $\sqrt{2} = 1.41421356 \ldots$ which never repeats.
12. Rules of Surds	$\sqrt{ab} = \sqrt{a} \times \sqrt{b}$ $\sqrt{\frac{a}{b}} = \frac{\sqrt{a}}{\sqrt{b}}$ $a\sqrt{c} \pm b\sqrt{c} = (a \pm b)\sqrt{c}$ $\sqrt{a} \times \sqrt{a} = a$	$\sqrt{48} = \sqrt{16} \times \sqrt{3} = 4\sqrt{3}$ $\sqrt{\frac{25}{36}} = \frac{\sqrt{25}}{\sqrt{36}} = \frac{5}{6}$ $2\sqrt{5} + 7\sqrt{5} = 9\sqrt{5}$ $\sqrt{7} \times \sqrt{7} = 7$
13. Rationalise a Denominator	The process of rewriting a fraction so that the **denominator contains only rational numbers**.	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{\sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2} \times \sqrt{2}} = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{2}$

		$\frac{6}{3+\sqrt{7}} = \frac{6(3-\sqrt{7})}{(3+\sqrt{7})(3-\sqrt{7})}$ $= \frac{18-6\sqrt{7}}{9-7}$ $= \frac{18-6\sqrt{7}}{2} = 9-3\sqrt{7}$