Numeracy at CDU

Perimeter of a square/rectangle

The perimeter is the total length of all sides of a shape. We are going to look at how to work out the perimeter of a square or rectangle. As both shapes have four sides, the formula we use is the same. That is, the height or length times two plus the width times two.

First, label your sides so it is easier to put numbers into the equation. In this example we'll get 5cm times two, plus 5cm times two. Second, work out each multiplication. Third, add the two together to get your answer.

Now let's look at a rectangle. Again, label the sides and use the side lengths in your equation. The process is the same as before.

It is best to get into the habit of labelling sides and following the steps for when numbers are larger and the math is more complex.

Remember to reach out to a Language and Learning Advisor for further support.