

Coded times table problem

Written by Liz Gibbs

The Busy Lizzie Maths Library

Coded times table problem

This is a coded times table. Look at the calculations. Can you work out what each letter represents?

$$C \times B = FB$$

$$B \times B = GB$$

$$F \times B = GK$$

$$H \times B = AB$$

$$D \times B = FK$$

$$J \times B = B$$

$$A \times B = JB$$

$$E \times B = AK$$

$$G \times B = JK$$

$$C \times B = FB$$

$$F \times B = GK$$

$$D \times B = FK$$

$$A \times B = JB$$

$$G \times B = JK$$

$$B \times B = GB$$

$$H \times B = AB$$

$$J \times B = B$$

$$E \times B = AK$$

Notice that the products all end in B or K. Which tables end in this pattern?

$$C \times B = FB$$

$$F \times B = GK$$

$$D \times B = FK$$

$$A \times B = JB$$

$$G \times B = JK$$

$$B \times B = GB$$

$$H \times B = AB$$

$$J \times B = B$$

$$E \times B = AK$$

It must be the five times table but where do we start?

$$C \times B = FB$$

$$F \times B = GK$$

$$D \times B = FK$$

$$A \times B = JB$$

$$G \times B = JK$$

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$B \times B = GB$$

$$H \times B = AB$$

$$J \times B = B$$

$$E \times B = AK$$

$$C \times B = FB$$

$$F \times B = GK$$

$$D \times B = FK$$

$$A \times B = JB$$

$$G \times B = JK$$

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$B \times B = GB$$

$$H \times B = AB$$

$$J \times B = B$$

$$E \times B = AK$$

$$C \times B = FB$$

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$F \times B = GK$$

$$H \times B = AB$$

$$D \times B = FK$$

$$J \times B = B$$

$$A \times B = JB$$

$$E \times B = AK$$

$$G \times B = JK$$

$$C \times B = F5$$

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$F \times B = GK$$

$$H \times B = AB$$

$$D \times B = FK$$

$$J \times B = B$$

$$A \times B = JB$$

$$E \times B = AK$$

$$G \times B = JK$$

Let's convert all the Bs to 5s and the Gs to 2s. Where does that take us?

$$C \times 5 = F5$$

$$F \times 5 = 2K$$

$$D \times 5 = FK$$

$$A \times 5 = J5$$

$$2 \times 5 = JK$$

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$H \times 5 = A5$$

$$J \times 5 = 5$$

$$E \times 5 = AK$$

Now where do we go?

$$C \times 5 = F5$$

$$F \times 5 = 2K$$

$$D \times 5 = FK$$

$$A \times 5 = J5$$

$$2 \times 5 = JK$$

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$H \times 5 = A5$$

$$J \times 5 = 5$$

$$E \times 5 = AK$$

We now know that the letter K must be 0

$$C \times 5 = F5$$

$$F \times 5 = 20$$

$$D \times 5 = F0$$

$$A \times 5 = J5$$

$$2 \times 5 = J0$$

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$H \times 5 = A5$$

$$J \times 5 = 5$$

$$E \times 5 = A0$$

Now where do we go next?

$$C \times 5 = F5$$

$$F \times 5 = 20$$

$$D \times 5 = F0$$

$$A \times 5 = J5$$

$$2 \times 5 = J0$$

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$H \times 5 = A5$$

$$J \times 5 = 5$$

$$E \times 5 = A0$$

J must be 1.

$$C \times 5 = F5$$

$$F \times 5 = 20$$

$$D \times 5 = F0$$

$$A \times 5 = 15$$

$$2 \times 5 = 10$$

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$H \times 5 = A5$$

$$1 \times 5 = 5$$

$$E \times 5 = A0$$

Now where do we go next?

$$C \times 5 = F5$$

$$F \times 5 = 20$$

$$D \times 5 = F0$$

$$3 \times 5 = 15$$

$$2 \times 5 = 10$$

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$H \times 5 = A5$$

$$1 \times 5 = 5$$

$$E \times 5 = 30$$

If J is 1 then A must be 3.

$$C \times 5 = F5$$

$$F \times 5 = 20$$

$$D \times 5 = F0$$

$$3 \times 5 = 15$$

$$2 \times 5 = 10$$

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$H \times 5 = 35$$

$$1 \times 5 = 5$$

$$E \times 5 = 30$$

Now where do we go next?

$$C \times 5 = F5$$

$$F \times 5 = 20$$

$$D \times 5 = F0$$

$$3 \times 5 = 15$$

$$2 \times 5 = 10$$

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$H \times 5 = 35$$

$$1 \times 5 = 5$$

$$E \times 5 = 30$$

If A is 3 then E is 6 because $30 \div 5 = 6$

$$C \times 5 = F5$$

$$F \times 5 = 20$$

$$D \times 5 = F0$$

$$3 \times 5 = 15$$

$$2 \times 5 = 10$$

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$H \times 5 = 35$$

$$1 \times 5 = 5$$

$$6 \times 5 = 30$$

Now where do we go next?

$$C \times 5 = F5$$

$$F \times 5 = 20$$

$$D \times 5 = F0$$

$$3 \times 5 = 15$$

$$2 \times 5 = 10$$

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$H \times 5 = 35$$

$$1 \times 5 = 5$$

$$6 \times 5 = 30$$

H must be 7 because $35 \div 5 = 7$.

$$C \times 5 = F5$$

$$F \times 5 = 20$$

$$D \times 5 = F0$$

$$3 \times 5 = 15$$

$$2 \times 5 = 10$$

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$7 \times 5 = 35$$

$$1 \times 5 = 5$$

$$6 \times 5 = 30$$

Now where do we go next?

$$C \times 5 = F5$$

$$4 \times 5 = 20$$

$$D \times 5 = 40$$

$$3 \times 5 = 15$$

$$2 \times 5 = 10$$

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$7 \times 5 = 35$$

$$1 \times 5 = 5$$

$$6 \times 5 = 30$$

F must be 4 because $20 \div 5 = 4$.

$$C \times 5 = 45$$

$$4 \times 5 = 20$$

$$D \times 5 = 40$$

$$3 \times 5 = 15$$

$$2 \times 5 = 10$$

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$7 \times 5 = 35$$

$$1 \times 5 = 5$$

$$6 \times 5 = 30$$

Now where do we go next?

$$C \times 5 = 45$$

$$4 \times 5 = 20$$

$$D \times 5 = 40$$

$$3 \times 5 = 15$$

$$2 \times 5 = 10$$

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$7 \times 5 = 35$$

$$1 \times 5 = 5$$

$$6 \times 5 = 30$$

D must be 8 because $40 \div 5 = 8$.

$$9 \times 5 = 45$$

$$4 \times 5 = 20$$

$$8 \times 5 = 40$$

$$3 \times 5 = 15$$

$$2 \times 5 = 10$$

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

$$7 \times 5 = 35$$

$$1 \times 5 = 5$$

$$6 \times 5 = 30$$

Therefore, C must be 9 because $45 \div 5 = 9$.