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## What Are Time, Speed and Distance?

## Time is...

Time is how long something takes to happen. This can also be called the duration of an event or journey.

## Speed is...

Speed is how fast or slow something travels.

## Distance is...

Distance is how far something travels.

How are time, speed and distance linked?
If we know two of these factors, we can work out the third.

## How to Calculate Distance

If we know the time and speed of a journey, we can work out the distance that has been travelled. To calculate distance (D), we multiply time $(T)$ by speed ( S ) or speed by time.

## For example:

Time (How long did you travel for?) $=1$ hour
Speed (How fast did you travel?) $=60 \mathrm{~km}$ per hour or $60 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h}$
so
Distance (How far did you travel?) $=1 \times 60 \mathrm{~km}=60 \mathrm{~km}$

Time (How long did you travel for?) $=2$ hours Speed (How fast did you travel?) $=40 \mathrm{~km}$ per hour or $40 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h}$
so
Distance (How far did you travel?) $=2 \times 40 \mathrm{~km}=80 \mathrm{~km}$

## How to Calculate Distance

A car travels at a speed of 70 mph . How far will it travel in 3 hours?
$D=T \times S=3 \times 70=210$ miles

You walk at $3 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h}$. How far will you walk in 5 hours?
$D=T \times S=5 \times 3=15 \mathrm{~km}$


## How to Calculate Speed

If we know the time and distance of a journey, we can work out the speed. To calculate speed (S), we divide distance (D) by time (T).

## For example:

Time (How long did you travel for?) $=1$ hour Distance (How far did you travel?) $=60 \mathrm{~km}$
so
Speed (How fast did you travel?) $=60 \div 1=60 \mathrm{~km}$ per hour or $60 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h}$

Time (How long did you travel for?) $=2$ hours Distance (How far did you travel?) $=80 \mathrm{~km}$ so
Speed (How fast did you travel?) $=80 \div 2=40 \mathrm{~km}$ per hour or $40 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h}$

## How to Calculate Distance

I walked 16 km in 4 hours, what speed was I walking at?
$S=D \div T=16 \div 4=4 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h}$

A train travelled 900 miles in 5 hours. What speed was it travelling at?
$S=D \div T=900 \div 5=180 \mathrm{mph}$

## How to Calculate Time

If we know the distance and speed of a journey, we can work out the time. To calculate time (T), we divide distance (D) by speed (S). This can also be shown as: $\mathrm{T}=\mathrm{D} \div \mathrm{S}$

## For example:

Distance (How far?) $=60 \mathrm{~km}$
Speed (How fast?) $=60 \mathrm{~km}$ per hour or $60 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h}$
so
Time (How long?) $=60 \div 60=1$ hour

Distance (How far?) $=80 \mathrm{~km}$
Speed (How fast?) $=40 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h}$
so
Time (How long?) $=80 \div 40=2$ hours



## Questions

Can you work out the time, distance or speed for the following?
Charlie walks at 2 mph . He walks for 6 hours. How far has he walked?

Amira completes a 10 km race in 1 hour. What was her speed?

A plane flies 6000 km in 10 hours. How fast was the plane travelling?


## Answers

Charlie walks at 2 mph . He walks for 6 hours. How far has he walked? D $=\mathbf{S} \times \mathbf{T}=\mathbf{2} \times \mathbf{6}=\mathbf{1 2}$ miles

Amira completes a 10 km race in 1 hour. What was her speed? $S=D \div T=10 \div 1=10 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h}$

A plane flies 6000 km in 10 hours. How fast was the plane travelling?

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T=D \div S=6000 \div 10=600 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h}
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