A Rounding Shortcut

Once you practice rounding numbers by using or thinking about number lines or tables, you may notice patterns about when to round down and when to round up. The example below shows a third method for rounding numbers that is a shortcut.

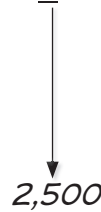**Example**

Round 2,478 to the nearest hundred.

- Find the digit in the hundreds place.
- Look at the digit to the right of the hundreds place.
- If the digit is less than 5, round down.
  If the digit is 5 or greater, round up.

Think: Is 7 equal to or greater than 5?

7 > 5, so round up to 2,500.

So, 2,478 rounded to the nearest hundred is 2,500.

2,478

↓

2,500

If the number is exactly halfway between the lower and higher numbers, use the real-world information or problem situation to decide whether to round up or down. When there is no real-world information or there is nothing in the problem situation to help you decide, round to the higher number.

Check Your Understanding

First round each number to the nearest thousand. Then round each number to the nearest hundred.

1. 123,456   **2.** 12,726   **3.** 2,910

Check your answers in the Answer Key.