

Resource Number–Word Combinations

Rounding

Combining our large number work with our rounding work can make large numbers much easier to work with in certain problems where exact values are not needed. We do this by approximating large numbers with a number–word combination. Consider the following examples:

Example 1, Option 1:

25,145,561 can be rounded to the nearest million as 25,000,000

$$25,000,000 = 25 \times 1,000,000 = \mathbf{25 \text{ million}}$$

(This is a number–word combination).

Doing that “loses” 145,561, which is quite a bit! But sometimes it doesn’t matter. This number represents the population of Texas from the 2010 census. To say that the Texas population in 2010 was about 25 million people is probably good enough for most situations (source: U.S. Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/data.html>).

Example 1, Option 2:

Round 25,145,561 to the nearest hundred-thousand, which is 25,100,000.

$$25,100,000 = 25.1 \times 1,000,000 = \mathbf{25.1 \text{ million}}$$

This option only “lost” 45,561.

Example 2: 1,452,900,812 rounds to 1,500,000,000 or 1.5 billion

