

COMMON FACTORS - Highest Common Factor (HCF)

Now we consider the factors of two separate numbers.

Some factors may be common to both numbers; these are called **common factors**.

Example: consider the numbers 12 and 20

the factors of 12 are 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 12

the factors of 20 are 1, 2, 4, 5, 10 and 20

Therefore the factors common to 12 and 20 are **1, 2 and 4**.

The highest of these common factors is called the **Highest Common Factor** (abbreviated **HCF**).

So in the example above, the HCF of 12 and 20 is 4.

Lowest Common Multiple (LCM)

Now we consider the multiples of two separate numbers. Some multiples may be common to both numbers; these are called **common multiples**.

The lowest of these common multiples is called the **Lowest Common Multiple** (abbreviated **LCM**).

Example: consider the numbers 12 and 20

the multiples of 12 are 12, 24, 36, 48, 60, 72, 84, etc

the multiples of 20 are 20, 40, 60, 80, etc

Therefore the Lowest Common Multiple of 12 and 20 is **60**.