

Greatest Common Factor (GCF) Overview

The greatest common factor (GCF) is the largest number that divides two or more numbers evenly.

EXAMPLE A: Find the greatest common factor (GCF) of **12** and **18**.

1.

LIST FACTORS

Write down all the factors of each number.

12		
1	×	12
2	×	6
3	×	4

18		
1	×	18
2	×	9
3	×	6

2.

PICK LARGEST FACTOR

Choose the largest number that appears in both lists.

12		
1	×	12
2	×	6
3	×	4

18		
1	×	18
2	×	9
3	×	6

EXAMPLE B: Find the factors of **20** and **24** and **36**.

20		
1	×	20
2	×	10
4	×	5

24		
1	×	24
2	×	12
3	×	8
4	×	6

36		
1	×	36
2	×	18
3	×	12
4	×	9
6	×	6

The GCF of **20** and **24** is **4**.

The GCF of **24** and **36** is **6**.