

## Approximate measurements

- JOE Right sis! I'll go get you a new carpet then.
- KATE Great Joe, the estate agent said that room's 3.8 metres by 2.4 metres. Here's £30.
- KATE Oh...it's hideous! And it doesn't even fit!
- JOE Aah, I've been ripped off.
- AL GEBRA I was wrapping up a loose end downtown, when, like a pair of no-good dirty beetroot thieves, I caught 'em red handed.
- KATE Umm...hi?
- AL GEBRA The name's Al. Private Detective.
- Nice rug. What gives?
- JOE The sign said it was 3.8 metres by 2.4 metres. Exactly the same size as this room.
- AL GEBRA What the kid hadn't realised is that measurement is approximate. He wasn't exactly an idiot to buy a rug that ugly, but then he wasn't quite as sharp as a spoon either. He was somewhere in the middle.
- JOE Hey!
- AL GEBRA It was a question of knowing your bounds. The measurements had been given to one decimal place. That is the nearest 10 centimetres. So I had to count to one decimal place too. 3.8 was slap bang in the middle of 3.7 and 3.9 metres. So the halfway points on either side of that were 3.75 and 3.85 metres. They were the lower and upper bounds, or sometimes called least and greatest values. 5 centimetres either side of the 3.8 metres.
- JOE So it's just about measurements not being exact?
- AL GEBRA Wrong! It's about looking for the halfway points. It is all about the bounds. Not the rules of rounding.
- And Dirty Doug, that no good carpet-cutting son of a gun, measured the length to the least bound. 3.75 metres.

# Bitesize

KATE                      And if the estate agent measured the length of the room to the greatest bound.

AL GEBRA                Which they did, 3.85 metres.

KATE                      Then there's like ten centimetres difference between what the estate agent said and Dodgy Doug said!

AL GEBRA                Lucky for them though where the measurements fell short on the length... there was compensation in the width. With the mystery solved, it was time for a good old-fashioned cover-up.

JOE                        That'll work.

AL GEBRA                It sure will Jimmy! It'll be just like none of this ever happened.

JOE                        It's Joe!

AL GEBRA                Sure thing Joe! I'll dispose of this old one for ya. I know just the dumpster for taking out the trash.

Case closed.