Perimeter: Count the Outside Edges

Answers and adult support.

Four checked perimeters

A: 10 units. B: 12 units. C: 12 units. D: 14 units. B and C have the same perimeter, although their shapes and areas differ.

Count only the boundary

Each short exposed square edge is one unit. Do not count a shared line between two squares. Follow the boundary all the way round, including the inset corner in C and the steps in D.

Check a different way

A is a 3 by 2 rectangle: 3 + 2 + 3 + 2 = 10. B is 4 by 2: 4 + 2 + 4 + 2 = 12. C has five squares but twelve exposed edges. D has nine squares and fourteen exposed edges.

The worked example

A 3 by 1 rectangle has three unit edges at the top and bottom and one at each end: 3 + 1 + 3 + 1 = 8 units. These diagrams use arbitrary units, not centimetres.