

Prime and Composite Numbers

A **composite number** is a whole number greater than 1 that has more than two different factors. 15 has four different factors, 1, 3, 5, and 15, so 15 is a composite number.

A **prime number** is a whole number greater than 1 that has exactly two factors, itself and 1. 17 has exactly two factors, 1 and 17, so 17 is a prime number.

Example 1

Is 7 a prime or composite number?

Find all the factors of 7.

Factors of 7: 1, 7

1 and 7 divide evenly into 7.

7 is a prime number because it only has two factors, the number itself and 1.

Example 2

Is 6 a prime or composite number?

Find all the factors of 6.

Factors of 6: 1, 2, 3, 6

1, 2, 3, and 6 divide evenly into 6.

6 is a composite number because it has more than two factors.

Then tell if the number is prime or composite.

1. 5

2. 12

3. 18

4. 15

5. 37

6. 43
