

LOOKING AT MENTAL STRATEGIES – DIVISION

$$72 \div 4$$

(Using place value partitioning)

$$72 \div 4 = (60 \div 4) + (12 \div 4)$$

$$= 15 + 3$$

$$= \mathbf{18}$$

or

$$72 \div 4$$

(Using proportional adjustment)

$$72 \div 8 = 9 \text{ is a known basic fact}$$

$$72 \div 8 = 9$$

halve ↓ double ↓

so $72 \div 4 = \mathbf{18}$

Which strategy is more efficient?