



**Definition**

A number  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ ,  $n > 1$ , is *composite* if there exists  $m, k \in \mathbf{N}$  (not necessarily distinct) satisfying  $m, k < n$  and

$$n = m \cdot k$$

A number which is not composite is called *prime*. Throughout this sheet, “number” is an element of  $\mathbf{N}$ . In other words, we exclude the natural number 0.

**Examples**

*The first few primes.* Since the only number smaller than 2 is 1 and  $2 \neq 1 \cdot 1$ , 2 is the first and smallest prime. Likewise,  $3 \neq 1 \cdot 2$ ,  $3 \neq 1 \cdot 1$ ,  $3 \neq 2 \cdot 2$ . So 3 is the second smallest prime.

*The first composite.* Now consider 4. Since  $4 = 2 \cdot 2$  and  $2 \leq 4$ , 4 is the smallest composite number.



