The learner will be able to apply basic rules to choose correctly between multiple potential base numbers.

Note: This is also one of the objectives of the Technical Introduction to the DDC. This review module is intended to reinforce the learner's grasp of these key rules before the learner embarks on a more difficult module, such as Number Building: Add Tables.
Choice of number

Determine subject

Determine disciplinary focus of subject

Relative Index is guide to schedules, but schedules must be consulted

Read instructions

Pay attention to author’s intention

Follow basic rules
Rule of application: Application or influence of one subject on another is classed with the second subject. This rule takes precedence over any other rule.

Example:

Influence of Aristotelian philosophy on United States philosophy

Aristotelian philosophy (185) vs.

United States philosophy (191)
Fullest treatment: Class a work on two subjects with the subject receiving the fullest treatment.

Example:

Waltzes & polkas (waltzes get fuller treatment than polkas)

Polkas (784.18844) vs. Waltzes (784.18846)
First-of-two rule: A work dealing equally with two subjects not used to introduce or explain one another is classed in the number coming first in the DDC schedule or table.
First-of-two example

Working pointers and setters 636.7525

LCSH:

Pointing dogs

Setters (Dogs)

Relative Index entries:

Pointers (Dogs) 636.7525

Setters (Dogs) 636.7526

Note: "First" means first in DDC number order, not first in alphabetic order
Exceptions to first-of-two rule:

The two topics are the two major subdivisions of a subject (use the number for the subject). Example (1):

*The essential guide to hair, makeup & skin care* 646.72

LCSH:

- Hairdressing
- Skin—Care and hygiene
- Cosmetics
- Beauty, Personal
Exceptions to first-of-two rule (2)

Example (2):

*The essential guide to hair, makeup & skin care*

646.72 (not 646.724)

646.72 Care of hair, face, skin, nails

Class here cosmetology, cosmetics, makeup

646.724 Care of hair

646.726 Care of face and skin

646.727 Care of nails
Exceptions to first-of-two rule:
Instructions in the schedule override the first-of-two rule.
Example at centered entry 972.8-972.9:

972 Mexico, Central America, West Indies, Bermuda

__________________________
>972.8-972.9 Other parts of Middle America
Class comprehensive works in 972

972.8 Central America

972.9 West Indies (Antilles) and Bermuda
Rule of three: A work giving equal treatment to three or more subjects that are all subdivisions of a broader subject is classed in the first higher number that includes all three.
Rule of three example (1)

Cambodia, Thailand & Laos 959

LCSH:

Southeast Asia—History
Cambodia—Description and travel
Cambodia—Civilization
Thailand—Description and travel
Thailand—Civilization
Laos—Description and travel
Laos—Civilization
Rule of three example (2)

Cambodia, Thailand & Laos 959

959        Southeast Asia
959.1      Myanmar
959.3      Thailand
959.4      Laos
959.5      Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore
959.6      Cambodia
959.7      Vietnam
959.8      Indonesia and East Timor
959.9      Philippines
Rule of zero: Avoid subdivisions beginning with zero if there is a choice between the 0 subdivision and a subdivision beginning with 1-9 at the same position in the notation. This means also avoiding subdivisions beginning with double zeros if there is a choice between 00 and 0 in the same position in the notation.
636 Animal husbandry

636.001-636.009 Standard subdivisions

636.01-636.08 [General topics in animal husbandry]
   (e.g., breeding; care, maintenance, training)

636.1-636.8 Specific kinds of domestic animals
   (e.g., horses, cattle, poultry, cats, dogs)
Rule of zero example (1)

Step by step organic flower gardening 635.987

LCSH:

Flower gardening

Organic gardening

Relative Index entries:

Floriculture 635.9

Flower gardening 635.9

Organic gardening 635.0484

Organic gardening—floriculture 635.987
Step by step organic flower gardening 635.987

635 Garden crops (Horticulture)

635.04 *Cultivation, harvesting, related topics
*Add as instructed under 633-635

635.0484 Organic gardening (built with 635.04 plus 8 from add table under 633-635 plus 4 from 631.584 Organic farming, as instructed under 81-87 Special cultivation methods in add table under 633-635)
Step by step organic flower gardening 635.987

635.9 Flowers and ornamental plants
   Standard subdivisions are added for either or both topics in heading
   Class here floriculture

635.98 Special methods of cultivation in floriculture

635.987 Organic gardening

Note: DDC puts flower gardening and floriculture together

Note: Rule of zero reinforces rule of application: application of organic methods of cultivation to flower gardening, to floriculture
Comprehensive number: A number that covers all the component parts of the subject treated within a single discipline. The component parts may be in a span of consecutive numbers or distributed throughout the schedule or table.
Literature in the Greek and Roman worlds: A new perspective 880.09

LCSH:
Classical literature—History and criticism
Greek literature—History and criticism
Latin literature—History and criticism
Literature in the Greek and Roman worlds: A new perspective 880.09

Relative Index entries:

Classical Greek literature 880
Classical literatures (Greek and Latin) 880
Classical literatures (Greek and Latin)—history 880.09
Greek literature 880
Latin literature 870
Literature in the Greek and Roman worlds: A new perspective 880.09

880  Classical Greek literature and literatures of related Hellenic languages

Class here literatures of Hellenic languages, comprehensive works of or on literatures of classical (Greek and Latin) languages

For Latin literature, see 870

Note: Instruction in schedule overrides first-of-two rule
Literature in the Greek and Roman worlds: A new perspective 880.09

88 Classical Greek literature and literatures of related Hellenic languages (final placeholder 0 deleted before notation added)

0 Extra zero for standard subdivisions as instructed at 880.01-880.09 Standard subdivisions of classical (Greek and Latin) literatures

09 History (from Table 1)
Interdisciplinary number: A number that covers all the disciplinary perspectives on a given subject (work must include the discipline where the interdisciplinary number is located)

Note: The first class number displayed in an index entry (the unindented term) is the number for interdisciplinary works
“This four-volume encyclopedia brings together contributors from the full range of disciplines concerned with the science, politics, and economics of water . . . .”

LCSH:

- Water—Encyclopedias
- Hydrology—Encyclopedias
- Hydrogeology—Encyclopedias
Interdisciplinary number example (2)

**Water: Science and issues 553.703**

Relative Index entries (1):

- Encyclopedias 030
- Encyclopedias T1–03
- Hydrography 551.46
- Hydrology (Fresh waters) 551.48
- Water 553.7
- Water—chemistry 546.22
- Water—economic geology 553.7
Interdisciplinary number example (3)

Water: Science and issues 553.703

Relative Index entries (2):

- Water—law 346.04691
- Water—resource economics 333.91
- Water—supply services 363.61
- Water bodies 551.46
- Water bodies—physical geology 551.46
Water: Science and issues 553.703

551.46 Oceanography and submarine geology

Class here hydrography, hydrosphere; physical oceanography, seawater; interdisciplinary works on marine science, on oceans and seas

Class ice in 551.31; class geologic work of water in 551.35; class ocean-atmosphere interactions in 551.5246; class interdisciplinary works on water in 553.7

For hydrology, see 551.48
Water: Science and issues 553.703

551.48 Hydrology

Class comprehensive works on oceanography and hydrology in 551.46; class water resources, interdisciplinary works on water in 553.7
Interdisciplinary number example (6)

Water: Science and issues 553.703

553.7  Water

03  Dictionaries, encyclopedias, concordances (from Table 1)
Preference notes

363.728 Wastes

Unless other instructions are given, class a subject with aspects in two or more subdivisions of 363.728 in the number coming last, e.g., recycling scrap metal 363.7288 (not 363.7282)

Note: 363.7282 Recycling; 363.7288 Specific kinds of wastes
High tech trash: Digital devices, hidden toxics, and human health 363.7288

“High Tech Trash is a wake-up call to the importance of the e-waste issue and the health hazards involved. Americans alone own more than two billion pieces of high tech electronics and discard five to seven million tons each year. As a result, electronic waste already makes up more than two-thirds of the heavy metals and 40 percent of the lead found in our landfills. But the problem goes far beyond American shores, most tragically to the cities in China and India where shiploads of discarded electronics arrive daily. There, they are "recycled"-picked apart by hand, exposing thousands of workers and community residents to toxics.”
High tech trash: Digital devices, hidden toxics, and human health 363.7288

LCSH:

- Waste electronic apparatus and appliances
- Electronic apparatus and appliances—Environmental aspects
- Electronic apparatus and appliances—Health aspects
- Electronic industries—Environmental aspects
**Preference note example (3)**

*High tech trash: Digital devices, hidden toxics, and human health* 363.7288

Relative Index entries (1):

- Electronic components—waste technology 621.38150286
- Solid wastes 363.7285
- Toxic wastes 363.7287
High tech trash: Digital devices, hidden toxics, and human health 363.7288

Relative Index entries (2):

Waste control 363.728
Waste technology 628.4
Waste technology T1–0286
Wastes 363.728

Note: At 628.4 Waste technology, there is a note: "Class interdisciplinary works on wastes in 363.728"
High tech trash: Digital devices, hidden toxics, and human health \textit{363.7288}

363.7285 Solid wastes
363.7287 Hazardous wastes
\textit{363.7288} Specific kinds of wastes

Including agricultural, domestic, medical wastes; beverage containers, garbage, scrap metal
591 Specific topics in natural history of animals

Unless other instructions are given, observe the following table of preference, e.g., social behavior of beneficial animals 591.56 (not 591.63):
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Behavior</td>
<td>591.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous nontaxonomic kinds of animals</td>
<td>591.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical adaptation</td>
<td>591.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetics, evolution, young animals</td>
<td>591.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal ecology, animals characteristic of specific environments</td>
<td>591.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals by specific continents, countries, localities</td>
<td>591.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Herbivores in the food chain 591.54

LCSH:
- Herbivores—Food—Juvenile literature
- Food chains (Ecology)—Juvenile literature

Relative Index entries:
- Ecology 577
- Ecology—animals 591.7
- Food chains (Ecology) 577.16
- Herbivores 591.54
- Herbivorous animals 591.54
Herbivores in the food chain 591.54

591.54 Herbivorous feeding

Class here browsing, grazing; herbivorous animals

591.7 Animal ecology, animals characteristic of specific environments

591.716 Animals in the food chain (built with 591.7 plus 16 from 577.16 Food chains, following instructions at 591.71-591.78 Specific topics in animal ecology; specific environments)
Summary

For choice of number, keep in mind:

- Rule of application
- Fullest treatment
- First-of-two rule
- Rule of three
- Rule of zero
- Comprehensive and interdisciplinary numbers
- Preference notes and tables