Prime factorization is finding which prime numbers can be used to multiply to get the original amount. Prime numbers can only be divided by 1 and itself, and must be whole numbers greater than one. Factors are the numbers multiplied together to get the product. An example of prime factorization is shown below using 12.

12 = 2 x 6 (2 is prime, so it stays, but 6 is not)

12 = 2 x 2 x 3 because 2 x 3 = 6 and the numbers 2 and 3 are both prime.