MATHEMATICS · GRADES 4-6

Adding decimals

Difficulty level: Intermediate

Mathematics: Grades 4-6

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Overview of the concept

This is how you add up money at the till, split a restaurant bill, or total measurements when you are cooking or building something. Prices, weights, and lengths are almost always written as decimals, so this is the addition you use most in real life. Getting the decimal point lined up right is what keeps a grocery total or a cut of wood from coming out wrong.



Rule

Adding decimals: line up the decimal points, then add each column starting at the right.

Bring the decimal point straight down into the answer, adding a zero to fill an empty place if you need to.

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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q $2.35 + 1.42 = ?$

SOLUTION

```
 2.35
+1.42
------
 3.77
```

Line up the decimal points, one under the other.

Add each column, starting at the right: hundredths 5 + 2 = 7, tenths 3 + 4 = 7, ones 2 + 1 = 3

Bring the decimal point straight down: 3.77

EXAMPLE 2

Q $4.6 + 2.75 = ?$

SOLUTION

```
 4.60
+2.75
------
 7.35
```

Line up the decimal points and add a zero: 4.60 + 2.75

Add each column with carries: hundredths 0 + 5 = 5, tenths 6 + 7 = 13, write 3 carry 1, ones 4 + 2 + 1 = 7

Bring the decimal point straight down: 7.35

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Practice questions

1. Maya buys a pencil for $1.25 and an eraser for $2.35. How much does she spend in all?

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2. A ribbon is 3.4 m long. Sam joins a 2.6 m piece to it. How long is the ribbon now?

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3. In a swim relay, Ana swims her lap in 25.5 seconds and Ben swims his in 24.75 seconds. What is their combined time?

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4 Maya buys a notebook for $2.50, a pen for $1.25 and a ruler for $0.75. How much does she spend in all?

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5 A carpenter has a 3 m board and joins a 2.45 m board to it. How long is the joined board?

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6 Sam added 2.8 and 3.75 without lining up the decimal points. What is the correct total?

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7 Estimate 4.9 + 3.1 by rounding each number to the nearest whole number. What is the estimate?

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8 The bus ride is 12.6 km and the walk after it is 3.45 km. How far do you travel in all?

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9 A scientist measures 0.125 L of one liquid and 0.25 L of another. What is the total volume?

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10 A shopkeeper weighs apples at 2.35 kg and oranges at 1.4 kg. What is the total weight?

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ANSWER KEY

1. $3.60

2. 6.0

3. 50.25

4. $4.50

5. 5.45

6. 6.55

7. 8

8. 16.05

9. 0.375

10. 3.75

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