MATHEMATICS · GRADES 4-6

Converting percentages to fractions

Difficulty level: Intermediate

Mathematics: Grades 4-6

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Overview of the concept

This is how you turn a percent into a fraction you can work with. A sale of 25 percent off is the same as a quarter off, so you can see the saving at a glance. It also lets you compare deals that are written different ways, like 20 percent off against a fifth off. And once a percent is a fraction, finding a percent of an amount is just a simple multiplication.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q How do you write 40% as a fraction in simplest form?

SOLUTION

Percent means out of 100, so 40% is $\frac{40}{100}$.

Now simplify: divide the top and bottom by 20.

So 40% = $\frac{2}{5}$

EXAMPLE 2

Q How do you write 12% as a fraction in simplest form?

SOLUTION

Percent means out of 100, so 12% is $\frac{12}{100}$.

Now simplify: divide the top and bottom by 4.

So 12% = $\frac{3}{25}$

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Practice questions

1 Write 25% as a fraction in simplest form.

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2 Which percent equals $\frac{1}{2}$?

A 25%

B 50%

C 75%

D 20%

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3 Which fraction equals 75%?

A $\frac{3}{4}$

B $\frac{4}{3}$

C $\frac{1}{4}$

D $\frac{7}{5}$

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4 A shirt is 20% off. What fraction of the price do you still pay? Give your answer as a fraction in simplest form.

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5 Which is greater, $\frac{1}{2}$ or 60%? Write the greater one as a fraction in simplest form.

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6 Write these in order from smallest to largest as fractions in simplest form: 20%, $\frac{1}{4}$, 30%.

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7 Write 0.25 as a fraction in simplest form.

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8 What fraction of $100 is $5? Give your answer as a fraction in simplest form.

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9 Write 125% as a fraction in simplest form.

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10 Write 12.5% as a fraction in simplest form.

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ANSWER KEY

1. $\frac{1}{4}$

2. 50%

3. $\frac{3}{4}$

4. $\frac{4}{5}$

5. $\frac{3}{5}$

6. $\frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{10}$

7. $\frac{1}{4}$

8. $\frac{1}{20}$

9. $1\frac{1}{4}$

10. $\frac{1}{8}$

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