MATHEMATICS · GRADES 4-6

Multiplying decimals

Difficulty level: Intermediate

Mathematics: Grades 4-6

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Overview of the concept

This is how you multiply amounts with cents or measurements, like the cost of three items at a decimal price or the length of several boards. Almost every price you meet has cents in it, so multiplying decimals is what you do every time you buy more than one of something. You use it to work out the cost of several items at the till, the total length of boards for a job, or the weight of several bags of the same size.



Rule

Multiply as if the numbers were whole, then put the decimal point back so the answer has as many decimal places as the factors have altogether.

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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q $2.4 \times 3 = ?$

SOLUTION

2.4 × 3

Ignore point: 24 × 3 = 72

One decimal place -> 7.2

Multiply as whole numbers, ignoring the point: 24 × 3 = 72.

Count the decimal places in the factors: 2.4 has one.

Place the point so the answer has one decimal place: 7.2.

EXAMPLE 2

Q $1.2 \times 0.3 = ?$

SOLUTION

1.2 × 0.3

Ignore points: 12 × 3 = 36

Two decimal places -> 0.36

Multiply as whole numbers: 12 × 3 = 36.

Count the decimal places: 1.2 has one and 0.3 has one, 1 + 1 = 2 in total.

Place the point so the answer has two decimal places: 0.36.

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Practice questions

1. One notebook costs $2.40. How much do 3 notebooks cost?

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2. Ribbon costs $1.20 per metre. How much does 0.3 m of ribbon cost?

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3. Each bag holds 1.5 kg of rice. How much rice is in 4 bags?

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4 Mia walks 0.8 km each day. How far does she walk in 5 days?

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5 One tile is 0.25 m wide. How wide are 8 tiles laid side by side?

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6 A recipe uses 1.2 cups of flour for a full batch. How much flour do you need for 0.5 of a batch?

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7 A plant grows 1.4 cm in one week. How much does it grow in 3 weeks?

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8 Tickets cost $4.50 each. How much do 6 tickets cost?

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9 One bottle holds 0.6 litres of juice. How much juice is in 7 bottles?

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10 **One step is 0.9 m long. How far do 9 steps take you?**

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ANSWER KEY

1. 7.20

2. 0.36

3. 6.0

4. 4.0

5. 2.00

6. 0.6

7. 4.2

8. 27.00

9. 4.2

10. 8.1

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