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There are three basic types of percent word problems: 1. Finding a given percent of a given number. For example, find 25% of 640. 2. Finding a percent when we're given 2 numbers. For example, 15 is what percent of 50? 3. Finding a number which is a given percent of some other number. Like: 10 percent of which number is 12? So, let's start with the first type, finding a given percent of a given number. 1. Finding a Given Percent of a Given Number Let's start with our first type of percent word problem. As an example: What number represents 25 percent of 640? Online GED Classes A simple and easy way of getting your GED diploma. Here is our Solution: x represents our unknown number. So we translate our words into a simple equation. The question is: Which number represents 25 percent of 640, so x = 25% · 640 Onsego GED Prep Online GED Classes Lessons Simply Explained | Practice Tests | Add-ons Preview Onsego Now So we have to solve this equation for x. Our original equation is x = 25% · 640 If we change 25 percent to a decimal, we get: 25% = 0.25 So: x = 0.25 · 640 When we multiply: 0.25 and 640 we get 160. So: x = 160 and thus: 25% of 640 = 160. 2. Finding a Percent when We're Given Two Numbers Next, let's take a closer look at the 2nd type of percent problem. For example, 15 is which percent of 50? Well, let x represent our unknown percent. Then we can translate these words (15 is which percent of 50) into the following equation" 15 = x · 50 The Math 'commutative property of multiplication' lets us change the multiplication order on the equation's right-hand side. We'll get: 15 = 50x. So now, we will be able to solve this equation for x. The original equation is 15 = 50x. When we divide both sides of this equation by 50 we get 15/50 = 50x/50. Now we can simplify the right-hand side of the equation into 15/50 = x When we divide 15/50, we get 0.30. So x = 0.30 But notice that we have to express the answer as a percent. To get a percent, we'll simply have to move our decimal 2 places to the right (and, of course, add the percent symbol). So, 0.30 = 30% and thus, 15 is 30 percent of 50. 3. Finding a Number which is a Given Percent of some other Number Now, let's look at the third item on our list of basic types of percent problems that we started this page with. For example, ten percent (10%) of which number is 12? For the solution, we say that x represents our unknown number. So we can translate our words into the following equation. Original question: 10% of which number is 12? So: 10% · x = 12. When we change 10% into a fraction, we get: 10% = 10/100 = 1/10. So 1/10x = 12 And now, we'll be able to solve the equation for x. When we multiply both sides of the equation by 10 we get: 10(1/10x)= 10(12) Simplifying gives us: x = 120. Thus, ten percent (10%) of 120 is 12. So now, you've learned all about the three main types of solving percent word problems. 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What is the proportion of women with blonde hair? Possible Answers: Correct answer: Explanation: A proprotion is the number of a specific event (blonde women) divided by the total number of events (total number of women). Solve: Possible Answers: Correct answer: Explanation: Solve: Possible Answers: Correct answer: Explanation: A bag contains green marbles, red marbles, and blue marbles. What is the proportion of red marbles? Possible Answers: Correct answer: Explanation: The proportion is equal to the number of specific events (red marbles) divided by the total number of events (sum of all colors). What is of ? Possible Answers: Correct answer: Explanation: Sherry deposits $3,000 at 6% simple interest per year. How much will she have in this account after three years, assuming she does not make any withdrawals or deposits? Possible Answers: Correct answer: Explanation: Use the simple interest formula with : This is the simple interest earned. Add it to the original principal: The ratio of students to instructors at a prestigious law school is 15:4. If the school employs 120 instructors, then how many students total must it limit itself to enrolling in order to maintain this student-instructor ratio? Possible Answers: Correct answer: Explanation: Let be the maximum number of students admitted. For the school to maintain a 15:4 student-teacher ratio with 120 instructors, the ratios and must be equal. Therefore, we solve the proportion statement for : The maximum number of students it can admit is 450. The ratio of students to instructors at a prestigious medical school is 25:6. The school employs 90 instructors, and there will be 240 students returning. How many new students must it limit itself to admitting in order to continue to maintain this student-instructor ratio? Possible Answers: Correct answer: Explanation: Let be the maximum number of students admitted overall. For the school to maintain a 25:6 student-teacher ratio with 90 instructors, the ratios and must be equal. Therefore, we solve the proportion statement for : Since 240 spots are already filled by returning students, the medical school can admit up to new students. Which of the following statements follows from the statement ? Possible Answers: Correct answer: Explanation: Two ratios are equivalent if and only if their cross-products are equal. We look for the proportion statement whose cross-products are and . Of the four choices, only fits this criterion, so it is the correct choice. Which of the following statements does not follow from the statement ? Possible Answers: Correct answer: Explanation: From we can conclude the following: is true, because the cross-products of a proportion statement are true. is true, because if two ratios are equivalent, their reciprocals are equivalent. can be demonstrated to be true as follows: The fourth statement is false: , which contradicts the statement that . ← Previous 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Next → Dante Certified Tutor New Jersey Institute of Technology, Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering. Stevens Institute of Technology, Master of S... Syed Certified Tutor Trinity College, Bachelor of Science, Psychology. Stephanie Certified Tutor The University of Texas at San Antonio, Bachelor in Arts, Multi-/Interdisciplinary Studies, General. If you've found an issue with this question, please let us know. With the help of the community we can continue to improve our educational resources. 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