

Multiplying Decimals

5th Grade

Ignore the points, multiply, then count them back in.

Multiply as if the decimal points were not there, then put one back at the end.

1 IGNORE THE POINTS

Treat 2.4×1.3 as 24×13 .

2 MULTIPLY NORMALLY

$24 \times 13 = 312$.

3 COUNT THE DECIMAL PLACES

2.4 has one, 1.3 has one. Two altogether.

4 PUT THE POINT BACK

Count two places from the right: 3.12.

WORKED

$0.5 \times 0.3 \rightarrow 5 \times 3 = 15 \rightarrow$ two places $\rightarrow 0.15$

$1.25 \times 4 \rightarrow 125 \times 4 = 500 \rightarrow$ two places $\rightarrow 5.00 = 5$

Estimate first. 2.4×1.3 is roughly 2×1 , so about 3 — which makes 3.12 believable and 31.2 not.