

Percent of a Number

6th Grade

Two reliable methods, and the benchmarks worth doing in your head.

Percent means out of 100. To find a percentage of a number, turn the percent into a decimal and multiply.

$$\text{part} = \text{percent} \div 100 \times \text{whole}$$

25% of 80

20

0.25 $\times$ 80. Or a quarter of 80.

10% of 60

6

Divide by 10. The most useful one to know.

15% of 60

9

10% is 6, 5% is 3, so 15% is 9.

120% of 50

60

Over 100% is allowed — it means more than the whole.

THE COMMON MISTAKE

$\times$ 25% of 80 = 25 $\div$ 80

$\checkmark$ 25% of 80 = 0.25 $\times$ 80 = 20

'Of' means multiply. Dividing answers a different question.

10% = $\div 10$ · 5% = half of that · 1% = $\div 100$. Build any percentage from those three.