

Mohammed Kaabar Applications
of
Percent and
Problem Solving

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*Definition 1: Percent is defined as the number of hundredths. In other words, a certain number as a part of 100. Percent is denoted as $\boxed{?} \% = \frac{\boxed{?}}{100}$

* How to write percents?

Answer:

Step 1: If you have a decimal, then you need to move the decimal point two places to the write such as $0.\overline{54} \Rightarrow$ So, it becomes $54\boxed{\%}$ ← make sure that % is written at the end.

Step 2: If you have a fraction, then you need to convert it to decimal and then you can apply step 1 above:

Example 1: $\frac{1}{4} \Rightarrow 0.\overline{25} \Rightarrow \boxed{25\%}$.

Example 2 | Convert the following to percents:

Part (a): 0.67

Answer: $0.67 = \boxed{67\%}$

Part (b): $\frac{1}{2}$

Answer: $\frac{1}{2} = 0.50 = \boxed{50\%}$

Part (c): $\frac{7}{2}$

Answer: $\frac{7}{2} = 3.5 = \boxed{350\%}$

Example 3 | Convert the following to decimals/fractions:

Part (a): 92%

Answer: $92\% = \frac{92}{100} = \boxed{0.92}$

Part (b): $\frac{1}{2}\%$

Answer: $\frac{1}{2}\% = \frac{1/2}{100} = \frac{0.5}{100} = \boxed{0.005}$

Part (c): -0.92%

Answer: $-0.92\% = \frac{-0.92}{100} = \boxed{-0.0092}$

* How to translate percents and how to solve them?

Answer:

We need to know the following common words:

1- "of" $\xrightarrow{\text{means}}$ multiplication: " \cdot " or " \times "

2- "is" $\xrightarrow{\text{means}}$ equal to: " $=$ "

3- "what Percent" or "what number"

\downarrow means

Something we need to find "variable"

say like x , y , or any other letters

4- " $\%$ " $\xrightarrow{\text{means}}$ "Part of 100" or "multiply by $\frac{1}{100}$ "

$\times 0.01$ or $\times \frac{1}{100}$ (3)

Ex 3 | Translate the following and then solve:

\$100 is what percent of 300?

Solution:

Step 1: Translate the above as follows:

$$100 = x \cdot 300$$

Step 2: Solve for x as we did in the previous lesson "Solving linear equations":

$$\frac{100}{300} = \frac{300x}{300} \Rightarrow \boxed{x = \frac{1}{3}}$$

Step 3: let's convert what we got from

step 2 to percent:

$$\frac{1}{3} \approx 0.\overline{33} \approx \boxed{33\%}$$

Ex 4 | Mohammed went to land Rover Dealership to buy a 1997 land Rover Defender. The price of this car was listed \$90,000. A discount of 10% on the price of this car, followed by another discount of 5% because he is a math faculty in California, is equivalent to a single discount of what percent of the original price.

Solution: Original price is \$90,000

then, apply discount 1 to get the following:

$$90,000 \times 10\% = 90,000 \times \frac{10}{100} = \boxed{\$9,000}$$

$$\text{Now, Price after discount 1 is } \$90,000 - \$9,000 = \boxed{\$81,000}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Final Price} &= \$81,000 - \left(81,000 \times \frac{5}{100}\right) \\ &= \$81,000 - \$4,050 = \boxed{\$76,950} \end{aligned}$$

So, our final price is $\boxed{\$13,050}$ less than the original one. \Rightarrow ⑤

Hence, $\frac{\$13,050}{\$90,000} = 0.145$
 or
 $= \boxed{14.5\%} \leftarrow \boxed{\text{Final Answer}}$

Ex 5] Robin has a base salary of \$2000 per month. She also receives a commission of 5% of her salary. Last month her total earnings were \$2,750. Then, find what were the total sales for the month.

Solution: Assume that the total sale for the month is α . Then, we have:

$$\text{Robin's Salary} + \text{Robin's Commission} = \text{Total Earnings}$$

$$2000 + 0.05\alpha = 2750$$

$$\Rightarrow 0.05\alpha = 2750 - 2000$$

$$\Rightarrow 0.05\alpha = 750$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha = \frac{750}{0.05} = 15,000$$

Therefore, Robin's total sales for the month were \$15,000.