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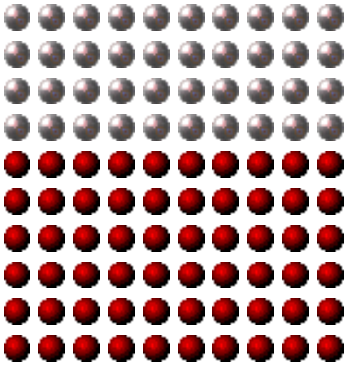
Percentages Introduction

The language of math is numbers and symbols. Some of the symbols we've learned to use are the addition sign +, the subtraction sign - , the multiplication sign x, and the division sign ÷. Today, we are going to learn to use another symbol – the percent sign %.

Percent means part of 100. There are three ways in which we can show a percentage. First, we can use a percent sign, like this: 5%, or we can use a fraction, like this: $\frac{5}{100}$ or we can use a decimal, like this: 0.5.

Say, for example, if you have 100 balls, 40 of them are silver and 60 are red.



0.4 or $\frac{40}{100}$ or 40% of them would be silver

and

0.6 or $\frac{60}{100}$ or 60% of them would be red

Percentages are quite easy when you know how to find them. To find the percent of a number all you have to do is multiply the number by the percent and then divide the answer by 100. Example: 40% of 100 balls is 40 x 100 = 4000 ÷ 100 = 40. Simple?

Let's work out 5% of 200: 5 x 200 = 1000; 1000 ÷ 100 = 10. So 5% of 200 = 10
To multiply by 100 just move the decimal point across 2 places. Like this:
30% of 85: 30 x 85 = 2550; 2550 ÷ 100 = 25.50 = 25.5

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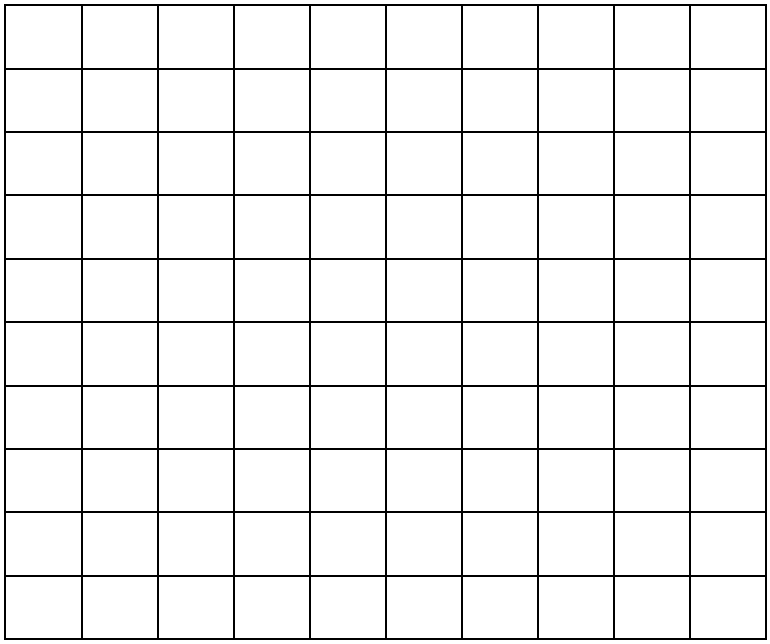
Percentages Introduction Questions

A: Fill in the squares.

Remember the red and silver balls? Here is a block with 100 small squares. Can you color 25% of the squares blue, 35% red and 30% yellow? How many squares do you have left? What percent of the 100 squares is left?



B: Now let's work out some percentages.

1. 5% of 60
2. 10% of 45
3. 4% of 100
4. 9% of 200
5. 12% of 50

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Percentages Introduction Answers

Activity A

10%

Activity B

1. 5% of 60 = 3
2. 10% of 45 = 4.5
3. 4% of 100 = 4
4. 9% of 200 = 18
5. 12% of 50 = 6