

Fractions, decimals and percentages – which is the best one to use?

Calculate the following, giving your answer as a percentage:

1. $10\% + 20\%$	
2. $20\% - 10\%$	
3. $10\% \times 20\%$	
4. $10\% \div 20\%$	
5. $5\% + 10\% \times 20\%$	

Calculate the following, giving your answer as a fraction:

6. $5\% + 0.25$	
7. $\frac{3}{4} - 0.5$	
8. $30\% + \frac{3}{5}$	
9. $6\% \times \frac{2}{3}$	
10. $\frac{2}{5} \div 50\%$	

Calculate the following, giving your answer as a decimal:

11. $\frac{1}{8} \div 50\%$	
12. $30\% \times 20\%$	
13. $\frac{1}{4} + 40\%$	
14. $0.5 \times 150\%$	
15. $0.2 \div 0.6$	

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Teaching notes

This exercise is designed to help students think about the best method to use when calculating and when to switch a quantity between a fraction, a decimal and a percentage.

Author's solutions:

Calculate the following, giving your answer as a percentage:

$$1. 10\% + 20\% = \frac{10}{100} + \frac{20}{100} = \frac{30}{100} = 30\%$$

$$2. 20\% - 10\% = \frac{20}{100} - \frac{10}{100} = \frac{10}{100} = 10\%$$

$$3. 10\% \times 20\% = \frac{10}{100} \times \frac{20}{100} = \frac{1}{10} \times \frac{2}{10} = \frac{2}{100} = 2\%$$

$$4. 10\% \div 20\% = \frac{10}{100} \div \frac{20}{100} = \frac{10}{100} \times \frac{100}{20} = \frac{10}{20} = \frac{1}{2} = 50\%$$

$$5. 5\% + 10\% \times 20\% = 5\% + 2\% = 7\% \text{ [from solutions 3. and 1.]}$$

Calculate the following, giving your answer as a fraction in its lowest terms:

$$6. 5\% + 0.25 = 5\% + 25\% = 30\% = \frac{3}{10}$$

$$7. \frac{3}{4} - 0.5 = \frac{3}{4} - \frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$8. 30\% + \frac{3}{5} = \frac{3}{10} + \frac{6}{10} = \frac{9}{10}$$

$$9. 6\% \times \frac{2}{3} = \frac{6}{100} \times \frac{2}{3} = \frac{12}{300} = \frac{1}{25}$$

$$10. \frac{2}{5} \div 50\% = \frac{2}{5} \div \frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{5} \times \frac{2}{1} = \frac{4}{5}$$

Calculate the following, giving your answer as a decimal:

$$11. \frac{1}{8} \div 50\% = \frac{1}{8} \div \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{8} \times \frac{2}{1} = \frac{1}{4} = 0.25$$

$$12. 30\% \times 20\% = \frac{3}{10} \times \frac{2}{10} = \frac{6}{100} = 0.06$$

$$13. \frac{1}{4} + 40\% = 0.25 + 0.40 = 0.65$$

$$14. 0.5 \times 150\% = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{2} = \frac{3}{4} = 0.75$$

$$15. 0.2 \div 0.6 = \frac{1}{5} \div \frac{3}{5} = \frac{1}{5} \times \frac{5}{3} = \frac{1}{3} = 0.\dot{3}$$