What Is a Percent?

The meaning of percent: Mistakes and missing information

Name _____ **Date** _____ **Score** _____ / 8

QUICK REVIEW

Percent means per 100: $35\% = 35/100 = 0.35$. To find a part, multiply the whole by the percent as a fraction. For example, 20% of 30 is $30 \times 20/100 = 6$. To find the percent use $100\times$part/whole; to find the whole divide the part by the percent fraction.

Worked example

What percent of 48 is 12?

1. The part of the whole is $\frac{12}{48} = \frac{1}{4}$.

2. The percent number is $\frac{1}{4} \times 100 = 25$. Thus the percentage is 25%.

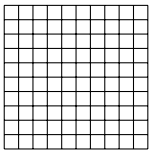
Answer: 25%.

Practice Problems

Show your thinking.

1. Noah says 6 out of 25 is 6%. Find the correct percent.

2. How many of the 100 cells must be shaded to show 15%?



3. A student writes $0.8 = 8\%$. Correct it.

4. Convert $\frac{3}{20}$ to a percent without rounding.

5. Can a percent exceed 100? Use 125 points out of a 100-point target.

6. A student says $\frac{1}{2} = 0.5\%$. Correct the percent.

7. A student says $\frac{9}{20} = 9\%$. Explain using hundredths and correct it.

8. A model has 11 filled equal parts out of 25. Recover the percent label.

Answer Key

1. 24%.
2. 15.
3. 80%.
4. 15%.
5. Yes; $125\% > 100\%$.
6. 50%.
7. 45%.
8. 44%.

Step-by-Step Solutions

Follow each calculation, then check your own work.

Problem 1

1. The part of the whole is $\frac{6}{25} = \frac{6}{25}$.
2. The percent number is $\frac{6}{25} \times 100 = 24$. Thus the percentage is 24%.

Problem 2

1. $15\% = 15/100 = \frac{3}{20}$.
2. The part is $100 \times \frac{3}{20} = 15$. Check: $15/100 = \frac{3}{20} = 15\%$.

Problem 3

1. The part of the whole is $\frac{4}{5} = \frac{4}{5}$.
2. The percent number is $\frac{4}{5} \times 100 = 80$. Thus the percentage is 80%.

Problem 4

1. The part of the whole is $\frac{3}{20} = \frac{3}{20}$.
2. The percent number is $\frac{3}{20} \times 100 = 15$. Thus the percentage is 15%.

Problem 5

1. The part of the whole is $\frac{125}{100} = \frac{5}{4}$.
2. The percent number is $\frac{5}{4} \times 100 = 125$. Thus the percentage is 125%.
3. The amount 125 exceeds the target 100, so its percentage 125% exceeds 100%.

Problem 6

1. The part of the whole is $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$.
2. The percent number is $\frac{1}{2} \times 100 = 50$. Thus the percentage is 50%.

Problem 7

1. The part of the whole is $\frac{9}{20} = \frac{9}{20}$.
2. The percent number is $\frac{9}{20} \times 100 = 45$. Thus the percentage is 45%.

Problem 8

1. The part of the whole is $\frac{11}{25} = \frac{11}{25}$.
2. The percent number is $\frac{11}{25} \times 100 = 44$. Thus the percentage is 44%.

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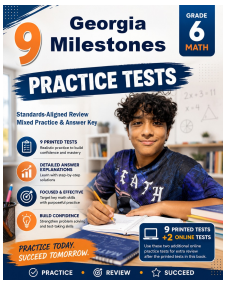

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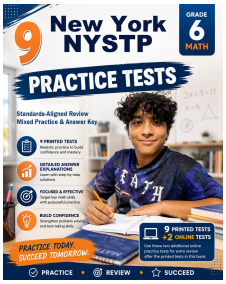

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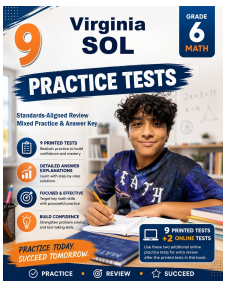

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