

# Decimals

## What techniques are required to add or subtract decimals?

If you are going to add or subtract decimals without a calculator, do the following:

- Step 1: Put the numbers in a vertical arrangement.
- Step 2: Line up the decimal points.
- Step 3: Add zeroes as necessary to make the decimals the same “length”.
- Step 4: Add or subtract as indicated. The usual rules of carrying and borrowing apply.

### Example

Add  $2.46 + 0.005 + 17$

decimal points lined up

↓

Write: 
$$\begin{array}{r} 2.460 \\ 0.005 \\ +17.000 \\ \hline 19.465 \end{array}$$
 numbers are arranged vertically

### Example

Subtract:  $0.2 - 0.078$

decimal points lined up

↓

Write: 
$$\begin{array}{r} 0.200 \\ - 0.078 \\ \hline \end{array}$$
 numbers are arranged vertically

$$\begin{array}{r} 1\ 9 \\ 0.200 \\ - 0.078 \\ \hline 0.122 \end{array}$$
 Borrowing technique used to complete the problem.