

Percents

What are percents?

The word **percent** means: “part of 100”. *Percents are actually fractions where the denominator (the bottom number) is 100.*

Example

25% is equivalent to $\frac{25}{100}$.

3.75% is equivalent to $\frac{3.75}{100}$.

Example

A number such as 87% is equivalent to $\frac{87}{100}$. What if this 87% number is your test score in a history class? Does it mean that you just took a 100-question test and got 87 correct? Well maybe, but more likely it means that based on the rate of success you had on the test, if it were 100 questions long you would have gotten 87 correct.

Example

A new salesperson is told she will start with a 4% commission rate on her total sales to customers. With experience, she can earn up to 7% commission.

- A 4% commission rate means that for every \$100 of sales, she will earn \$4.00. As she gains experience, she will get a 7% rate, which means she'll earn \$7.00 for every \$100 of sales.

Example

A gallon of milk is labeled as 2%. *The 2% refers to butterfat content.*

- A 2% fat content means that if you had 100 lbs of milk, 2 lbs of that would be butterfat.