

Multiplying Decimals by Dropping the Decimal and Putting it Back in Later


Mental Math Strategy

When to use this strategy: Use this strategy when you multiplying decimals that have one (or easy) non-zero digit(s).

How to use this strategy: Start by just adding the (non-zero) digits. Then put in the decimal *in the only logical place*. One good way to tell is to think about percents. For example, if you are multiplying by .3, that is 30%, so the answer will be a little less than half of the number. You can check by counting the total number of places to the right of the decimal, but the key is to make sure the answer is reasonable.

Examples: $.3 \cdot 400$: Use $3 \cdot 4 = 12$ then put the decimal point in the only reasonable place. $.3 \cdot 400 = 120$
 $(.3)(.7) = .21$ $(.05)(.6) = .03$ think ".030"

Use this (new) strategy on the following:	
1.) Find the area of a rectangle that is .9 m by 3 m.	2.) Find the area of a rectangle that is .9 ft by .3 ft.
3.) Solve $\frac{h}{1.2} = .7$	4.) If green beans cost \$3 per pound and you buy .8 pounds, how much does it cost?

Use any strategy you know on the following:	
5.) Find the perimeter of a square with each side 35 m.	6.) W = weight of chocolate (lbs.) P = Price of chocolate (\$) $P = 4W$ If you buy .5 lbs. of chocolate, how much would it cost?
7.) 52 cards are to be dealt to four players. Find one-fourth of 52.	8.) Find the perimeter of the rectangle 14in.  26in.