

Percentage Summary

- the fraction approach

Here are 5 main types of questions you may be asked.

1. Find a percentage of another number.

e.g. Find 15% of 300

$$\frac{15}{100} \times \frac{300}{1} = \frac{15}{1} \times \frac{3}{1} = 45$$

2. Increase (or decrease) by a percentage

e.g. Increase my wage of \$875 per week by 8%

First find 8% of \$875

$$\frac{8}{100} \times \frac{875}{1} = 70$$

Now increase my wage by \$70

$$875 + 70 = 945$$

My new wage is \$945 per week

If you were asked to decrease the original amount, you subtract the amount you found instead of adding it.

3. What percentage is one quantity of another?

e.g. What percentage is 35 of 175?

$$\frac{35}{175} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{35}{7} \times \frac{4}{1} = \frac{5}{1} \times \frac{4}{1} = 20\%$$

Note: the value after the word “of “ goes on the bottom of the fraction. In this case 175 is on the bottom of the first fraction.

**4. Find the percentage decrease (or increase).**

e.g. The water storage fell from 980kL to 833kL. Find the percentage decrease?

First find the amount of decrease

$$980 - 833 = 147 \text{ kL decrease}$$

Now use the formula below

$$\frac{\text{amount of decrease}}{\text{original amount}} \times \frac{100}{1} = \% \text{ decrease}$$

$$\frac{147}{980} \times \frac{100}{1} = 15\%$$

For an increase use the formula:

$$\frac{\text{amount of increase}}{\text{original amount}} \times \frac{100}{1} = \% \text{ increase}$$

OR alternatively use the formula

$$\frac{\text{new}}{\text{old}} \times \frac{100}{1} = \text{new \%}$$

With this method you **MUST** then calculate the % change by calculating the difference between your answer and the original 100%.

5. Given a percentage find the whole amount.

e.g. If 17% of my savings is \$ 340, how much is my total savings?

