

Percentage Tricks & Shortcuts

12 simple strategies to make percentage calculations quicker, clearer and more confident.

Trick 1: Find 10%

To find 10%, divide the number by 10. This is the starting point for many percentage calculations.

Example: 10% of 250 = 25

Trick 2: Find 1%

To find 1%, divide the number by 100.

Example: 1% of 500 = 5

Trick 3: Find 5%

Find 10% and halve it.

Example: 5% of 240 = $24 \div 2 = 12$

Trick 4: Find 50%

50% means one-half. Divide the number by 2.

Example: 50% of 84 = 42

Trick 5: Find 25%

25% means one-quarter. Divide the number by 4.

Example: 25% of 200 = 50

Trick 6: Find 75%

75% means three-quarters. Find 25% and multiply it by 3.

Example: 75% of 80 = $20 \times 3 = 60$

Trick 7: Find 20%

Find 10% and double it.

Example: $20\% \text{ of } 150 = 15 \times 2 = 30$

Trick 8: Find 15%

Find 10% and 5%, then add them.

Example: $15\% \text{ of } 200 = 20 + 10 = 30$

Trick 9: Find 30%

Find 10% and multiply it by 3.

Example: $30\% \text{ of } 90 = 9 \times 3 = 27$

Trick 10: Find 1% First

For less familiar percentages, find 1% first and multiply by the required percentage.

Example: $7\% \text{ of } 300 = 3 \times 7 = 21$

Trick 11: Find a Percentage of a Number

Convert the percentage to a decimal and multiply. This works for any percentage.

Example: $18\% \text{ of } 250 = 0.18 \times 250 = 45$

Trick 12: Find What Percentage One Number Is of Another

Divide the part by the whole, then multiply by 100.

Example: $15 \text{ out of } 60 = (15 \div 60) \times 100 = 25\%$

Try It Yourself!

Use the tricks above. Try to solve mentally before writing the working.

1. 10% of 360 = _____

2. 5% of 240 = _____

3. 25% of 160 = _____

4. 50% of 96 = _____

5. 75% of 120 = _____

6. 20% of 250 = _____

7. 15% of 200 = _____

8. 30% of 150 = _____

9. 7% of 300 = _____

10. 18% of 250 = _____

11. 20 is what percentage of 80? _____

12. 45 is what percentage of 180? _____

Answer Key

1. 36 | 2. 12 | 3. 40 | 4. 48 | 5. 90 | 6. 50
7. 30 | 8. 45 | 9. 21 | 10. 45 | 11. 25% | 12. 25%