



Family Letter for Unit 2

Dear Family,

During the next few weeks, our math class will be learning about operations with fractions and decimals. We will add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and decimals.

Here are samples you can use as guides to help your child.

Vocabulary

denominator The number below the bar in a fraction.

improper fraction A fraction in which the numerator is greater than or equal to the denominator.

numerator The number above the bar in a fraction.

Multiplying a Mixed Number by a Fraction

Step 1

Rewrite the mixed number as an improper fraction.

$$2\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{5}{6} = \frac{9}{4} \times \frac{5}{6}$$

Think:

$$1 = \frac{4}{4} \text{ and } 2 = \frac{8}{4}, \\ \text{so } 2\frac{1}{4} = \frac{9}{4}.$$

Step 2

Divide to simplify the numerators and denominators if possible.

$$\frac{\cancel{9}}{4} \times \frac{5}{\cancel{6}_2}$$

Step 3

Multiply numerators. Multiply denominators. Simplify, if possible.

$$\frac{\cancel{9}^3}{4} \times \frac{5}{\cancel{6}_2} = \frac{3 \times 5}{4 \times 2} = \frac{15}{8} = \frac{17}{8}$$

Think:

$$\frac{15}{8} = 1\frac{7}{8} + \frac{7}{8} = \text{or } 1\frac{7}{8}$$

Dividing a Decimal by a Whole Number

Step 1

Divide as if the decimal point is not there.

$$5.85 \div 3 \quad \begin{array}{r} 195 \\ 3 \overline{)5.85} \\ \underline{27} \\ 15 \\ \underline{15} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

Step 2

Place the decimal point in the quotient directly above the decimal point in the dividend.

$$\begin{array}{r} \downarrow \\ 1.95 \\ 3 \overline{)5.85} \end{array}$$

Have your child help with fractional and decimal computation while completing household projects or dealing with money.

Sincerely,



Technology

Check out *Education Place* at eduplace.com/kids/mw/ for e•Glossary, e•Word Games, test prep practice, and more.