Converting Fractions Into Percentages Explained

KS4 MATHEMATICS Ages 11-14 ⏰ 3 min read

What's a Fraction and What's a Percentage?

Before we convert, let's make sure we understand what we're working with. A **fraction** is a part of a whole number, like **1/4** (one quarter). A **percentage** is another way of showing the same thing, but out of **100**. The word **percent** literally means "out of 100."

Think of it like slicing a pizza. If you eat **1/4** of a pizza, you've eaten **25%** of it—because a whole pizza is **100%**.

The Simple Formula

Converting a fraction to a percentage is easier than you might think. Here's the magic formula: **Divide the top number (numerator) by the bottom number (denominator), then multiply by 100.**

So if you have the fraction **3/4**, you would:

Step 1: Divide **3 ÷ 4 = 0.75**

Step 2: Multiply by **100: 0.75 × 100 = 75%**

Think of it like converting coins into notes. First you figure out the decimal value, then you multiply to see how many pounds out of 100 you have.

Why Does This Work?

Percentages are always out of **100**. When you divide the numerator by the denominator, you get a **decimal**—a number between 0 and 1 that shows what portion of the whole you have. Multiplying by **100** converts that decimal into a percentage.

Let's Try More Examples

Example 1: What's **1/2** as a percentage?

1 ÷ 2 = 0.5, then **0.5 × 100 = 50%**

Example 2: What's **2/5** as a percentage?

2 ÷ 5 = 0.4, then **0.4 × 100 = 40%**

Example 3: What's **7/10** as a percentage?

7 ÷ 10 = 0.7, then **0.7 × 100 = 70%**

Quick Trick!

Some fractions are easier to remember. **1/2 = 50%**, **1/4 = 25%**, **3/4 = 75%**, and **1/10 = 10%**. Learning these common ones can save you time in exams!

Free for educational use