



Working Out a Fraction of a Number

KS2 MATHS

Ages 10-12 ⌚ 3 min read

What Does 'A Fraction Of' Mean?

When you work out **a fraction of a number**, you're finding a part of that number. For example, **half of 10** is 5, or **one-quarter of 20** is 5. Fractions help us split things into equal pieces and find out how much one piece is worth.

Think of it like sharing a pizza. If you cut a pizza into **8 slices** and want to know how much **3 slices** are, you're finding **3/8** of the whole pizza.

The Two-Step Method

Working out a fraction of a number is simple once you know the trick. You need to **divide first, then multiply**.

Step 1: Divide by the bottom number (the denominator). This tells you how much one piece is worth. **Step 2: Multiply by the top number (the numerator)**. This tells you how many pieces you want.

Let's try an example: What is **3/4 of 20**? First, divide **20 by 4 = 5**. Then multiply **5 by 3 = 15**. So **3/4 of 20 is 15**.

Think of it like counting pocket money. If you have **£20** and want to find **3/4 of it**, you first split £20 into **4 equal parts** (that's £5 each), then count **3 of those parts** (that's £15).

Try It Yourself

Here are some problems to practise:

What is 1/2 of 14? Divide **14 by 2 = 7**. Multiply **7 by 1 = 7**. Answer: **7**.

What is 2/5 of 25? Divide **25 by 5 = 5**. Multiply **5 by 2 = 10**. Answer: **10**.

Why Is This Useful?

You'll use fractions of numbers all the time—sharing sweets, calculating discounts in shops, measuring ingredients for cooking, or working out **percentages** (which are

just fractions out of **100**). Understanding this skill makes maths in real life much easier!