Decimals Lesson 5

Multiplying & Dividing Decimals

Multiply by a Whole Number

Multiply like normal — then count decimal places!

Example:

$0.4 \times 3 = 1.2$

$(4 \times 3 = 12 \rightarrow 1 \text{ decimal place} \rightarrow 1.2)$

Multiply Two Decimals

Multiply normally. Then move the decimal to the left.

Example:
$0.6 \times 0.5 = 0.30$
($6 \times 5 = 30 \to 2$ decimal places $\to 0.30$)

Divide by a Whole Number

Divide as usual. Just bring the decimal up.

Example:

1.2 ÷ 4 = 0.3

(12 ÷ 4 = 3 → 1 decimal place = 0.3)

Word Problem – Multiply

A pencil costs $0.45.

How much for 4 pencils?

$0.45 \times 4 = 1.80$

Word Problem – Divide

You have $3.60 and want to split it between 3 friends.

How much does each friend get?

3.60 ÷ 3 = 1.20