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Using Word Names for Decimal Numbers

In this video lesson, we go in depth into translating our decimal numbers into the English language. Learn how to write out decimal numbers and the special situations that there are.

Decimal Numbers

Just look around when you are shopping and you will see **decimal numbers** all around you. These are your numbers that have a decimal point in them. At the store, the decimal numbers that you see all have two numbers after the decimal. That is because in our money system, we have coins that represent those decimal values.

One penny represents 0.01 in a decimal number. Ninety-nine pennies represent 0.99 in a decimal number. If you saw 0.54 at the store, how would you read that? You would probably just take one quick look at it and say, 'Oh, that thing costs fifty-four cents.' If we see decimal numbers used to tell us how much things cost, then this is a great way to read those decimal numbers.

Word Names

There is another way to read decimal numbers that works for all kinds of decimal numbers, not just the ones that are used to show us how much things cost. Using this way to read decimal numbers will let you read those decimal numbers that are used in statistics and other scientific fields. Anytime we say or write a number using words, we are using **word names** for it. Just like we can have several ways of describing the same thing in the English language, we also can have several ways to read a decimal number using word names.

For example, the decimal number 0.54 can be read as fifty-four cents, if this decimal number is used to tell us how much something costs. Or, we can read it as zero point five four. The general way to read decimal numbers is to read the number in front of the decimal point like you normally do, say point for the decimal point, and then read the digits after the decimal point one by one. So, if you happen to see the number 13.567 as you are reading this scientific brochure about how eating too many cheeseburgers

affects your performance at school, you would read it as thirteen point five six seven. This particular article just told you that if you ate 13.567 or more cheeseburgers, then your performance at school would suffer because you would be having too many stomachaches.

Example

How would you read the decimal number 104.112? You look at this number and you see that the number in front of the decimal point is one hundred four. So, you go ahead and say that first. Then you say point followed by one one two. So, the word name for 104.112 is one hundred four point one one two. That was pretty easy.

Special Decimals

There are some decimal numbers that have additional special names to them. For example, the decimal number 0.5 can be read as zero point five, or it can be read as half. This is because 0.5 is exactly half of 1. The decimal number 0.25 also has a special name. Can you think of what that is? Well, if you think in terms of money, what kind of coin is represented by 0.25? It's a quarter! So, 0.25 also has the word name of a quarter. These are just a couple of examples, and as you explore the world of decimal numbers further, you will find that there are other decimal numbers that also have special word names. We won't cover these in this video lesson.

Lesson Summary

Let's review what we've learned. **Decimal numbers** are your numbers that have a decimal point in them. Anytime we say or write a number using words, we are using **word names** for it. Just like we can have several names for the same thing, we can also have several word names for the same decimal number. The general way of reading and writing decimal numbers is to say the number before the decimal point like you normally would, then say point for the decimal point, followed by the digits after the decimal point one by one. So, the number 25.123 is read as twenty-five point one two three.

If a decimal number is used to represent the cost of something, we can also read it as we would money amounts. So, the number 7.25 can be read as seven point two five or as seven dollars and twenty-five cents. We covered two special decimals that have an addition name to them. The first is 0.5, which can also be read as half. The second is 0.25, which can also be read as a quarter.

Learning Outcomes

When you are done with this lesson, you should be able to:

- State what a decimal number is
- Say or write a decimal number using word names