

Rational Numbers

RATIONAL NUMBERS

Rational Numbers are numbers that can be written in the form:

$$\frac{a}{b} \text{ where } a \text{ and } b \text{ are integers, and } b \text{ is not equal to } 0 \text{ (} b \neq 0 \text{)}$$

It is very important to remember that dividing a number by zero is not allowed as the answer is **undefined**.

$$\frac{5}{0} = \text{undefined}$$

Integers are rational numbers. Every integer can be written in the form $\frac{a}{b}$:

Examples:

-4 can be written as $\frac{-4}{1}$

Integer $-4 = \frac{-4}{1}$ Integer
Integer

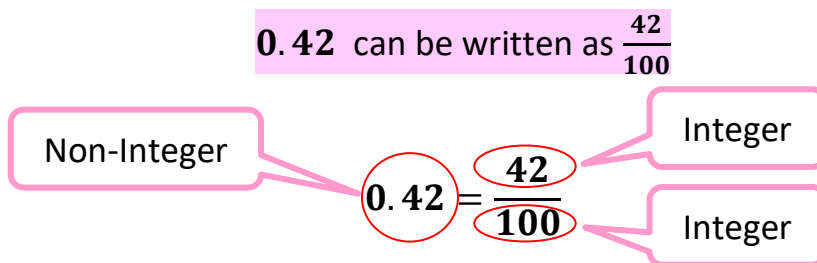
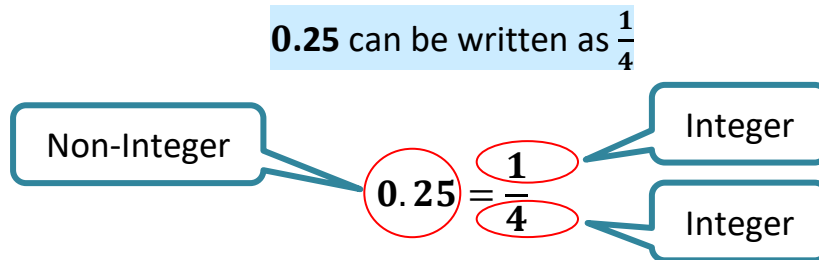
3 can be written as $\frac{6}{2}$

Integer $3 = \frac{6}{2}$ Integer
Integer

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Non-integers can be rational numbers too. Some of them can also be written in the form $\frac{a}{b}$:

Examples:



This only shows that a **rational number** can be expressed as a **fraction** or **decimal**. It can be transformed into its equivalent fraction or decimal form, and vice versa.

Rational Numbers Expressed as Fractions		
-5	=	$\frac{-15}{3}$
7	=	$\frac{7}{1}$
2	=	$\frac{-2}{-1}$

Rational Numbers Expressed as Decimals		
$\frac{-1}{2}$	=	-0.5
$\frac{3}{4}$	=	0.75
$\frac{5}{100}$	=	0.05

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When rational numbers expressed as fractions are divided, the quotient can be a **terminating** or **repeating** decimal number.

A **terminating decimal number** is one that has a finite number of digits. This means that the digits end.

TERMINATING DECIMAL NUMBER
$\frac{3}{4} = 0.75$
$\frac{13}{25} = 0.52$

A **repeating decimal number** is one that has digits that repeats and never ends.

REPEATING DECIMAL NUMBER
$\frac{1}{3} = 0.333333333333 \dots$ or $0.\overline{3}$
$\frac{4}{11} = 0.363636363636 \dots$ or $0.\overline{36}$

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IRRATIONAL NUMBERS

On the other hand, there are numbers that are not rational. They are called **irrational numbers**. Unlike rational numbers, irrational numbers when expressed in decimal form can be a **non-terminating** and **non-repeating**.

A **non-terminating** and **non-repeating** decimal number has digits that don't repeat and goes on and on without end.

Examples:

$\sqrt{2}$ can't be written in the form $\frac{a}{b}$.

$\sqrt{5}$ can't be written in the form $\frac{a}{b}$.

$\sqrt{7}$ can't be written in the form $\frac{a}{b}$.

NON-TERMINATING AND NON REPEATING DECIMAL NUMBER
$\sqrt{2} = 1.414213562 \dots$
$\pi = 3.141592654 \dots$

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Sample Problem 1: Tell whether each of the following are rational or irrational numbers.

- | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----------------|----|---------------|-------------------|
| a. | -9 | RATIONAL | b. | $\frac{1}{2}$ | RATIONAL |
| c. | $0.45454545 \dots$ | RATIONAL | d. | $\sqrt{7}$ | IRRATIONAL |
| e. | $\frac{10}{30}$ | RATIONAL | f. | $\frac{2}{3}$ | RATIONAL |
| g. | -1 | RATIONAL | h. | 24 | RATIONAL |
| i. | $\frac{6}{7}$ | RATIONAL | j. | $\sqrt{25}$ | RATIONAL |

CHANGING FRACTIONS TO DECIMALS

As mentioned earlier, **rational numbers can be in fraction or decimal form**. These forms are equivalent and can be transformed into one form or another. Changing fractions into its decimal form is like doing a simple division.

The required step is very simple: **Divide the numerator by the denominator.**

Example 1:

$\frac{3}{4}$ $\begin{array}{r} 0.75 \\ 4 \overline{) 3.00} \\ \underline{-28} \\ 20 \\ \underline{-20} \\ 0 \end{array}$	$\frac{21}{50}$ $\begin{array}{r} 0.42 \\ 50 \overline{) 21.00} \\ \underline{-200} \\ 100 \\ \underline{-100} \\ 0 \end{array}$
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In the examples above, the rational numbers expressed as decimal numbers are **terminating decimals**.

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Example 2:

$\frac{5}{11}$ $0.4545\dots$ $11 \overline{) 50000}$ $\underline{-44}$ 60 $\underline{-55}$ 50 $\underline{-44}$ 60 $\underline{-55}$ 5	$\frac{1}{3}$ $0.3333\dots$ $3 \overline{) 10000}$ $\underline{-90}$ 100 $\underline{-90}$ 100 $\underline{-90}$ 100
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In the examples above, the rational numbers expressed as decimal numbers are **repeating and non-terminating decimals**. These types of decimals repeat over and over again, without end.

Repeating and non-terminating decimal numbers can be written in two different ways:

$\frac{5}{11} = 0.4545 \dots$	$\frac{5}{11} = 0.\overline{45}$
<p>The three dots called ellipses indicates that 45 is repeated indefinitely.</p>	<p>A bar, also called vinculum, can be placed on top of the digit/s being repeated.</p>
<p>Therefore, $\frac{1}{3} = 0.333 \dots$ or $0.\overline{3}$</p>	

WARNING: Sometimes, it takes several decimals to know whether the equivalent decimal of a given fraction is a repeating decimal.

Example: $\frac{6}{7} = 0.857142857142857142857142 \dots$

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Guide Notes

Sample Problem 2: Express the following fractions as decimals and determine whether the decimal number terminates or repeats.

a. $\frac{5}{8}$

Terminating and non-repeating

$$\begin{array}{r} 0.625 \\ 8 \overline{) 5000} \\ \underline{-48} \\ 20 \\ \underline{-16} \\ 40 \\ \underline{-40} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

b. $\frac{2}{5}$

Terminating and non-repeating

$$\begin{array}{r} 0.4 \\ 5 \overline{) 20} \\ \underline{-20} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

c. $\frac{3}{25}$

Terminating and non-repeating

$$\begin{array}{r} 0.12 \\ 25 \overline{) 3000} \\ \underline{-25} \\ 50 \\ \underline{-50} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

d. $\frac{12}{15}$

Terminating and non-repeating

$$\begin{array}{r} 0.8 \\ 15 \overline{) 120} \\ \underline{-120} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

e. $\frac{5}{6}$

Non-terminating and repeating

$$\begin{array}{r} 0.833 \\ 6 \overline{) 5000} \\ \underline{-48} \\ 20 \\ \underline{-18} \\ 20 \\ \underline{-18} \\ 2 \end{array}$$

f. $\frac{13}{9}$

Non-terminating and repeating

$$\begin{array}{r} 1.44\ldots \\ 9 \overline{) 1300} \\ \underline{-9} \\ 40 \\ \underline{-36} \\ 40 \\ \underline{-36} \\ 4 \end{array}$$

g. $\frac{11}{15}$

Non-terminating and repeating

$$\begin{array}{r} 0.733\ldots \\ 15 \overline{) 11000} \\ \underline{-105} \\ 50 \\ \underline{-45} \\ 50 \\ \underline{-45} \\ 5 \end{array}$$

h. $\frac{9}{11}$

Non-terminating and repeating

$$\begin{array}{r} 0.8181\ldots \\ 11 \overline{) 90000} \\ \underline{-88} \\ 20 \\ \underline{-11} \\ 90 \\ \underline{-88} \\ 20 \\ \underline{-11} \\ 9 \end{array}$$

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CHANGING TERMINATING DECIMALS TO FRACTIONS

Let's now reverse the process. This time, we'll transform terminating decimals to its equivalent fraction. In changing decimal numbers to fractions, we use its digits (without the decimal point) as the numerator. The denominator on the other hand must be a power of 10.

We need to select the appropriate denominator such as 10, 100, 1 000, 10 000, and so on. Don't forget to always change the fraction in its lowest term, if possible.

Examples:

"0.5" is read as **5 tenths**.

It is written as: $\frac{5}{10}$

It is simplified as: $\frac{1}{2}$

$$0.5 = \frac{5}{10} \text{ or } \frac{1}{2}$$

"0.12" is read as **12 hundredths**.

It is written as: $\frac{12}{100}$

It is simplified as: $\frac{3}{25}$

$$0.12 = \frac{12}{100} \text{ or } \frac{3}{25}$$

"0.25" is read as **25 hundredths**.

It is written as: $\frac{25}{100}$

It is simplified as: $\frac{1}{4}$

$$0.25 = \frac{25}{100} \text{ or } \frac{1}{4}$$

"0.625" is read as **625 thousandths**.

It is written as: $\frac{625}{1000}$

It is simplified as: $\frac{5}{8}$

$$0.625 = \frac{625}{1000} \text{ or } \frac{5}{8}$$

Sample Problem 3: Express the following terminating decimals in its equivalent fraction.

a. $0.9 = \frac{9}{10}$

b. $0.24 = \frac{24}{100} \text{ or } \frac{6}{25}$

c. $0.125 = \frac{125}{1000} \text{ or } \frac{1}{8}$

d. $0.375 = \frac{375}{1000} \text{ or } \frac{3}{8}$

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CHANGING REPEATING AND NON-TERMINATING DECIMALS TO FRACTIONS

While changing terminating decimal numbers to fractions is a piece of cake, doing the same for repeating and non-terminating decimal numbers is a different story. But there is nothing to worry about. The steps on how to do it are explained clearly in the examples below.

Example 1: Change **0.888...** to its fraction form.

Step 1: Let's create an equation by choosing any variable. We could let x be equal to the given repeating and non-terminating decimal number.

$$x = 0.888 \dots$$

Step 2: Examine the repeating decimal closely to determine the number of digit or digits that repeats.

$$x = 0.888 \dots$$

There is only one repeating digit, 8.

Step 3: Using the original equation, we need to place the repeating digit to the left of the decimal point. Since we only have one repeating digit, we'll multiply both sides of the original equation by 10.

$$(10)x = 0.888 \dots (10)$$

$$10x = 8.888 \dots$$

Step 4: Subtract the two equations.

$$10x = 8.888 \dots$$

$$x = 0.888 \dots$$

$$9x = 8$$

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Step 5: Solve for x by dividing both sides by 9.

$$\frac{9x}{9} = \frac{8}{9}$$

$$x = \frac{8}{9}$$

So, $0.888 \dots = \frac{8}{9}$. We can't simplify $\frac{8}{9}$ any further.

Let's confirm if we are correct.

$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{8}{9} \\ 0.8888\dots \\ 9 \overline{)80000} \\ \underline{-72} \\ 80 \\ \underline{-72} \\ 80 \\ \underline{-72} \\ 80 \\ \underline{-72} \\ 8 \end{array}$$

Or better yet, you may use a calculator to confirm.

Example 2: Change $0.\overline{45}$ to its fraction form.

Step 1: Let's create an equation by choosing any variable. We could let x be equal to the given repeating and non-terminating decimal number.

$$x = 0.\overline{45}$$

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Step 2: Examine the repeating decimal closely to determine the number of digit or digits that repeats.

$$x = 0.\overline{45}$$

There are two repeating digits, 45.

Step 3: Using the original equation, we need to place the repeating digit to the left of the decimal point. Since we have two repeating digits, we'll multiply both sides of the original equation by 100.

$$(100)x = 0.\overline{45}(100)$$

$$100x = 45.\overline{45}$$

Step 4: Subtract the two equations.

$$100x = 45.\overline{45}$$

$$x = 0.\overline{45}$$

$$99x = 45$$

Step 5: Solve for x by dividing both sides by 99.

$$\frac{99x}{99} = \frac{45}{99}$$

$$x = \frac{45}{99}$$

$$\text{So, } 0.\overline{45} = \frac{45}{99} \text{ or } \frac{5}{11}.$$

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Example 3: Change $4.\overline{16}$ to its fraction form.

Step 1: Let's create an equation by choosing any variable. We could let x be equal to the given repeating and non-terminating decimal number.

$$x = 4.\overline{16}$$

Step 2: Examine the repeating decimal closely to determine the number of digit or digits that repeats.

$$x = 4.\overline{16}$$

There are two repeating digits, 16.

Step 3: Using the original equation, we need to place the repeating digit to the left of the decimal point. Since we have two repeating digits, we'll multiply both sides of the original equation by 100.

$$(100)x = 4.\overline{16}(100)$$

$$100x = 416.\overline{16}$$

Step 4: Subtract the two equations.

$$100x = 416.\overline{16}$$

$$x = 4.\overline{16}$$

$$99x = 45$$

Step 5: Solve for x by dividing both sides by 99.

$$\frac{99x}{99} = \frac{45}{99}$$

$$x = \frac{45}{99}$$

$$\text{So, } 4.\overline{16} = \frac{45}{99} \text{ or } 4\frac{16}{99}$$

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Sample Problem 4: Express the following terminating decimals in its equivalent fraction.

a. $0.222 \dots$

$$\begin{aligned}
 x &= 0.222 \dots \\
 (10)x &= 0.222 \dots (10) \\
 10x &= 2.222 \\
 \hline
 10x &= 2.222 \\
 x &= 0.222 \dots \\
 \hline
 9x &= 2 \\
 \frac{9x}{9} &= \frac{2}{9} \\
 x &= \frac{2}{9} \\
 \mathbf{0.222 \dots} &= \mathbf{\frac{2}{9}}
 \end{aligned}$$

b. $0.2\bar{7}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 x &= 0.2\bar{7} \\
 (10)x &= 0.2\bar{7} \dots (10) \\
 10x &= 2.\bar{7} \\
 (100)x &= 0.2\bar{7} \dots (100) \\
 100x &= 27.\bar{7} \\
 \hline
 100x &= 27.\bar{7} \\
 10x &= 2.\bar{7} \\
 \hline
 90x &= 25 \\
 \frac{90x}{90} &= \frac{25}{90} \\
 x &= \frac{25}{90} \\
 \mathbf{0.2\bar{7}} &= \mathbf{\frac{25}{90}} \text{ or } \mathbf{\frac{5}{18}}
 \end{aligned}$$

c. $0.\overline{125}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 x &= 0.\overline{125} \\
 (1000)x &= 0.\overline{125} (1000) \\
 1000x &= 125.\overline{125} \\
 \hline
 1000x &= 125.\overline{125} \\
 x &= 0.\overline{125} \\
 \hline
 999x &= 125 \\
 \frac{999x}{999} &= \frac{125}{999} \\
 x &= \frac{125}{999} \\
 \mathbf{0.\overline{125}} &= \mathbf{\frac{125}{999}}
 \end{aligned}$$

d. $3.\overline{124}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 x &= 3.\overline{124} \\
 (1000)x &= 3.\overline{124} (1000) \\
 1000x &= 3124.\overline{124} \\
 \hline
 1000x &= 3124.\overline{124} \\
 x &= 3.\overline{124} \\
 \hline
 999x &= 3121 \\
 \frac{999x}{999} &= \frac{3121}{999} \\
 x &= \frac{3121}{999} \\
 \mathbf{3.\overline{124}} &= \mathbf{\frac{3121}{999}} \text{ or } \mathbf{3\frac{124}{999}}
 \end{aligned}$$