

The Rules for Calculating Percentages

Percentage means out of 100, so 1% means 1 out of 100 and 50% means 50 out of 100. We can use this to help us calculate simple percentages of numbers. The rules are as follows:

1. To calculate 50% of a number you halve it. e.g. 50% of 234 = 117.
2. To calculate 25% of a number you halve it and then halve it again. This is because 25% is the same as $\frac{1}{4}$. e.g. 25% of 64 = 16, because half of 64 is 32 and half of 32 is 16.
3. To calculate 75% you work out 50% then halve it to get 25% and then add the two answers together. e.g. 75% of 48 is 36.

$$50\% \text{ of } 48 = 24$$

$$\underline{25\%} \text{ of } 48 = \underline{12}$$

$$\text{so } 75\% \text{ of } 48 = 36$$

4. To calculate 10% of a number you divide the number by 10, because 10% is the same as $\frac{1}{10}$. You can then multiply the answer to get 30%, 70%, 90% etc. e.g.
10% of 70 = 70 divided by 10 = 7, so 30% = $7 \times 3 = 21$ i.e. $10\% \times 3$
 $70\% = 7 \times 7 = 49$ i.e. $10\% \times 7$
5. To calculate 1% you divide by 100 because $1\% = \frac{1}{100}$. You can use this answer to calculate 7%, 13%, 27% etc.
e.g. 1% of 300 = 3, so 13% of 300 = 13×3 ($13 \times 1\%$) = 39.