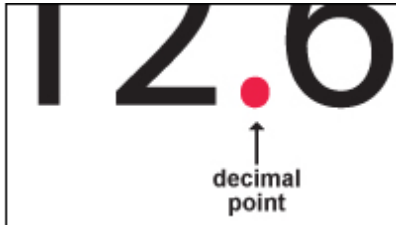


## The decimal point and reading decimals

The most important part of a decimal is the **decimal point**. Here it is magnified:



The decimal point separates the '**whole**' number from the '**parts**' of the whole number. For example:

- 16.4 the 16 is separated from the 0.4 (or four tenths)
- £1.25 the £1 is separated from the 25 pence
- 10.75 m the 10 metres is separated from the 75 centimetres
- 5.6 kg the 5 kilograms is separated from the 600 grams

**The decimal point separates a whole number and a decimal**

### Reading decimals

When reading decimals out loud you have to read the number after the decimal point, one at a time. For example:

- 1.5 is 'one point five'
- 12.06 is 'twelve point zero six'
- 1.25 m is 'one point two five metres'

**But** when you read money out loud you read the pounds and then the pence. For example:

- £1.50 is 'one pound and fifty pence' or 'one pound fifty'
- £12.06 is 'twelve pounds and six pence' or 'twelve pounds six'
- £1.25 is 'one pound, twenty five pence' or 'one pound twenty five'