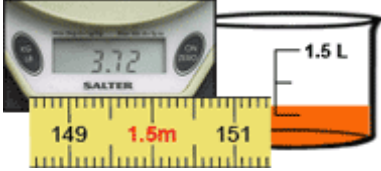


What are decimals?

Decimals are all around us. Here are some examples:



Look at the number 1.54 (one point five four). It is written using the decimal system. This is a way of showing **whole** numbers and **parts** of whole numbers.

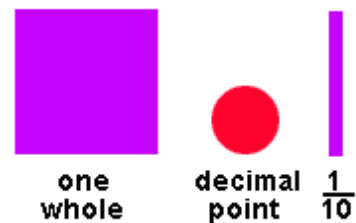
Decimals are used for parts of a number that are smaller than one.

The place value table below shows how 1.54 is made up of one unit, five tenths and four hundredths:

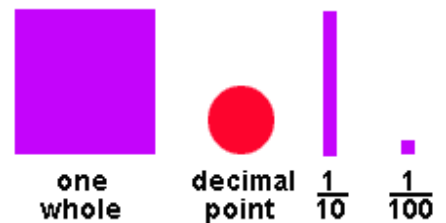
Hundreds	Tens	Units	.	Tenths	Hundredths
		1	.	5	4

Tenths and hundredths

Think of a whole unit, such as the number 1. If you want to **split** this into ten equal parts, then each part is worth one tenth. So the number five in the place-value table above means that it is worth five tenths.



If you then split each tenth into ten equal parts, each of these parts is worth a hundredth. So the number four in the place value table above means four hundredths.



We use decimals most often when we're talking about money. The amount £1.54 means we have one pound and fifty-four pence. The fifty-four pence is only part of a pound.



The pound coin is one whole.

The fifty pence is made up of five lots of 10 pence coins. 10 pence is **one tenth** of one pound.

The four pence is made up of four lots of 1 pence coins. 1 pence is **one hundredth** of a pound.