



Percentage problems

To follow are some examples of percentage problems that can be converted to fraction problems.

Sales

In a sale, a washing machine is reduced by 50%. The original price is £500, what is the sale price?



50% is the same as one half ($\frac{1}{2}$).

$\frac{1}{2}$ of £500 means £500 divided by 2, which is £250.

Reducing £500 by £250 leaves £250.

Holidays



In 2009 more than 25% of the almost 40 million holidaymakers from the UK went to Spain. How many people is 25% of 40 million?

25% is the same as one quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$).

$\frac{1}{4}$ of 40 means 40 divided by 4 which is 10.

So about 10 million UK holidaymakers went to Spain in 2009.

Value added tax

A plumber charges £120 plus Value Added Tax (VAT) to change a basin. What is the VAT (at 20%) on this job?

20% is the same as one fifth ($\frac{1}{5}$) of the cost.

$\frac{1}{5}$ of £120 is £120 divided by 5 which is £24.

