



The fraction method



This microwave oven costs £60. You have to put down a **50% deposit**. Or you could say you have to **pay half of the price** as a deposit.

Either way **the deposit is £30**.

But what if it was a 25% deposit? What would you have to pay?

To work this out using the **fraction method** you need to turn 25% into a fraction. From the factsheet 'Finding percentage parts: fractions and percentages' you can see that **25% = $\frac{1}{4}$** .

This means that finding **25% of £60 is the same as finding $\frac{1}{4}$ of £60**.

To find $\frac{1}{4}$ you divide by 4: $£60 \div 4 = £15$

So 25% of £60 is £15.

Example

Suppose I earn £120 a week and decide to save 10% of my wages. How much is that?

To use the fraction method turn 10% into a fraction: $10\% = \frac{1}{10}$.

So 10% of £120 is $\frac{1}{10}$ of £120 which is $£120 \div 10 = £12$.

So I save **£12** each week.

Example

To pass an exam you need 75% of the 60 marks. How many is that?

Remember that 75% is the same as $\frac{3}{4}$. To find $\frac{3}{4}$ of something you can work out $\frac{1}{4}$ and then multiply your answer by 3 to get $\frac{3}{4}$:

$\frac{1}{4}$ of 60 = $60 \div 4 = 15$. So $\frac{3}{4}$ is 3 times this which is $3 \times 15 = 45$.

So 75% of 60 is 45. The pass mark is **45** out of 60. Good luck!

For more information on working out fractions of numbers, look in the topic Fractions and percentages.