



Shortcuts for finding percentages

There are some shortcuts and tricks you can use to find percentages. Here are three of them.

Finding 75%

Find half. Then find half of that. Then add them together.

Why? Because half = 50%, half of that is 25%. Adding them together gives:

$$50\% + 25\% = 75\%$$

Example Find 75% of £12.

Half of 12 is 6. Half of that is 3. Now add them:

$$6 + 3 = 9$$

So **75% of £12 is £9.**

Finding 5%

Divide by 10 then halve it.

Why? Because dividing by 10 is the same as finding a tenth, which happens to be 10%. Half of that 10% is 5%.

Example Find 5% of £50.

Divide £50 by 10 to get £5. Now halve it, to get £2.50.

So **5% of £50 is £2.50.**

Finding 20%

Divide by 10 then double it.

Why? Because dividing by 10 gives you a tenth, which is 10%. Doubling 10% gives you 20%.

Example Find 20% of £160

First divide £160 by 10 to get £16. Now double it:

$$2 \times £16 = £32$$

So **20% of £160 is £32.**

Have a go at working out some other shortcuts. Check them with examples to see if they always work.