Answers and talk notes

Add and Subtract Decimals

What your student is learning

Tonight we add and subtract decimals. The key is to line up the decimal points so the same place values match.

Answers

Ask your student to explain before you look.

1. **A.** 5.9. 3 + 2 = 5 and 0.4 + 0.5 = 0.9, so 3.4 + 2.5 = 5.9.
2. **B.** 4.50. Adding a zero at the end does not change the value: 4.5 = 4.50.
3. **C.** 19.15. 12.75 + 6.40 = 19.15.
4. **D.** 5.75. 9.20 − 3.45 = 5.75.
5. **B.** 31.4. 50.0 − 18.6 = 31.4.
6. **A.** $8.75. 6.75 + 4.50 = 11.25 spent, and 20.00 − 11.25 = $8.75 left.

Talk about it

Do the decimal points sit in a straight line in your stack?

Home mission

Find two prices with cents on a receipt, like $3.50 and $2.75. Write one under the other with the dots in a line. Ask your student to add them, then check with a round estimate.

When they are stuck, ask

- Are the decimal points lined up in a straight line?
- Does one number need a zero added so both have the same places?
- Let's estimate with round numbers. Is our answer close to that?

Try not to say

- Just line up the numbers on the right edge.
- Adding a zero at the end changes the number.
- You can ignore the decimal point while you add.