Answers and talk notes

Multiply Decimals

What your student is learning

Tonight we multiply decimals. We multiply like whole numbers first, then count decimal places to put the point in the answer.

Answers

Ask your student to explain before you look.

1. **A.** 0.06. 3 × 2 = 6 and there are 1 + 1 = 2 decimal places, so 0.3 × 0.2 = 0.06.
2. **B.** 3. 2.5 has 1 decimal place and 0.04 has 2, so the product has 1 + 2 = 3 decimal places.
3. **C.** 15. 25 × 6 = 150 with 1 decimal place is 15.0, so 2.5 × 6 = 15.
4. **B.** 0.72. 8 × 9 = 72, and 1 + 1 = 2 decimal places, so 0.8 × 0.9 = 0.72.
5. **D.** 4.8. 32 × 15 = 480 with 2 decimal places is 4.80, so 3.2 × 1.5 = 4.8.
6. **A.** $14.40. 240 × 6 = 1,440 with 2 decimal places is $14.40.

Talk about it

How many decimal places does 12.60 have? And 4.5?

Home mission

Find a price per pound on a food label. Pick a weight like 2.5 pounds. Can your student estimate the total out loud, then say how many decimal places the exact answer needs?

When they are stuck, ask

- First multiply like whole numbers. What do you get?
- How many decimal places do both factors have together?
- Let's estimate with round numbers. Does the point look right?

Try not to say

- Line up the decimal points like you do when adding.
- The answer always has the same number of decimal places as one factor.
- You do not need to count places; just guess where the point goes.