

Math Tips

Multiplying by a percent

When multiplying by decimals, remember to move the decimal point 2 places to the left in your final answer.

For example: To find your client's body fat weight, multiply her total body weight (150 lb) by her body fat percent (30 %).

$$\begin{array}{r} 150 \\ \underline{.30} \\ 000 \\ +4500 \\ \hline 45.00 \end{array}$$

Dividing by a percent

When dividing by a percent, move the decimal point over 2 places to the right before you start long division.

For example: Your client currently weighs 150 lb and is 30% body fat. You know her lean body weight is 105 lb and her desired percent body fat is 20%. To find her new ideal body weight at 20 % body fat, you must divide 105 lb by her new ideal lean body weight percent, which equals 80% or 0.80 in decimal form.

First, you set up the division equation as... $0.80 \overline{)105.00}$

Then you will have to move the decimal points two places to the right and divide as follows...

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{131.25} \\ 80 \overline{)10500.00} \\ \underline{-80} \\ 250 \\ \underline{-240} \\ 100 \\ \underline{-80} \\ 200 \\ \underline{-160} \\ 400 \\ \underline{-400} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

Finding the percent of a whole

When dividing a bigger number into a smaller number, you must add a decimal point and at least 2 zeros at the end of the smaller number. Be sure to extend the decimal point to your answer – writing your answer to the right of the decimal point since it will ultimately be a percent of the whole.

For example: You notice on a food label that the item has 90 calories per serving and 3 grams of fat per serving. What percent of calories from this serving of food comes from fat?

First, you must convert grams of fat into calories so you can work with the same units in your equation:
 $9 \text{ cal/g fat} \times 3 \text{ g fat} = 27 \text{ cal fat}$

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{.30} \\ 90 \overline{)27.00} \\ \underline{-270} \\ 00 \end{array}$$