

### **Notes on Ratios, Rates, and Proportions**

**ratio**—A comparison of two numbers or quantities. They are measured in the same or similar units.

Example: If the ratio of adults to children is 2 to 5, then there are two adults for every 5 children. So, if there are 50 children in attendance, then there are 20 adults.

Ratios can be written in three ways:    2 to 5                      2:5                       $\frac{2}{5}$

**rate**—A special ratio that compares two quantities measured in different types of units.

Example: The water dripped at a rate of 2 liters every 3 hours  $\rightarrow \frac{2 \text{ L}}{3 \text{ hours}}$

**unit rate**—a rate with a denominator of 1.

Example: Shelby drove 70 mph.  $\rightarrow \frac{70 \text{ miles}}{1 \text{ hour}}$

**proportion**—An equation of two equivalent ratios.

Example: a 10 pound bag of M&Ms costs \$8. How much does each pound of M&Ms cost?

$$\frac{\$8}{10 \text{ pounds}} = \frac{\$x}{1 \text{ pound}}$$

$$x = \$0.80$$

The M&Ms cost \$0.80 per pound.

**equivalent proportions**—proportions that are essentially the same although they look a little different.

How can you tell if proportions are equivalent? The values that are diagonal are the same.

Example:  $\frac{\$37}{100\%} = \frac{x}{70\%}$  is equivalent to  $\frac{\$37}{x} = \frac{100\%}{70\%}$  and  $\frac{x}{\$37} = \frac{70\%}{100\%}$

but they are **NOT** equivalent to  $\frac{\$37}{x} = \frac{70\%}{100\%}$

Note: the equivalent proportions all have \$37 diagonal to 70% and x diagonal to 100%. The proportion that is not equivalent does not have this quality.

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### Solving proportions

You can solve a proportion many ways. First remove the units.

Example 1  $\frac{\$37}{100\%} = \frac{x}{70\%} \rightarrow \frac{37}{100} = \frac{x}{70}$

Now solve algebraically.

$$70 \cdot \frac{37}{100} = \frac{x}{70} \cdot 70$$

$$\cancel{70}^1 \cdot \frac{37}{\cancel{100}_1} = \frac{x}{\cancel{70}_1} \cdot \cancel{70}^1$$

$$\frac{259}{10} = x$$

$$25.9 = x$$

$$x = \$25.90$$

Example 2  $\frac{\$50}{3 \text{ hours}} = \frac{\$250}{x \text{ hours}} \rightarrow \frac{50}{3} = \frac{250}{x}$

Again, start by removing the units and solving algebraically.

$$x \cdot \frac{50}{3} = \frac{250}{x} \cdot x$$

$$x \cdot \frac{50}{3} = \frac{250}{\cancel{x}_1} \cdot \cancel{x}^1$$

$$\frac{50x}{3} = 250$$

$$\frac{3}{50} \cdot \frac{50x}{3} = 250 \cdot \frac{3}{50}$$

$$\frac{\cancel{3}_1}{\cancel{50}_1} \cdot \frac{\cancel{50}_1 x}{\cancel{3}_1} = \cancel{250}_1 \cdot \frac{3}{\cancel{50}_1}$$

$$x = 15$$

Note: A shortcut here is to multiply the two diagonal values that are known and divide them by the value diagonal to the variable (unknown).

$$x = \frac{37 \cdot 70}{100} = 25.9 \text{ or } \$25.90$$

Note: A shortcut here is to use the Giant One and write equivalent ratios.

$$\frac{50^{\cancel{5}}}{3_{\cancel{5}}} = \frac{250}{x} \rightarrow x = 15$$

Note: The same can be done vertically. Imagine the equivalent proportion:

$$\frac{50}{250} = \frac{3}{x}$$

We can see that if we multiply the numerator by 5, we get the denominator. So, we do this on both sides of the proportion.

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Example 3  $\frac{3x+2 \text{ miles}}{14 \text{ hours}} = \frac{x-5 \text{ miles}}{9 \text{ hours}} \rightarrow \frac{3x+2}{14} = \frac{x-5}{9}$

Again, start by removing the units and then solve algebraically.

$$9 \cdot \frac{3x+2}{14} = \frac{x-5}{9} \cdot 9$$

$$\frac{9(3x+2)}{14} = \frac{x-5}{\cancel{9}_1} \cdot \cancel{9}_1$$

$$\frac{27x+18}{14} = x-5$$

Now multiply both sides  
of the equation by 14.

$$14 \cdot \frac{27x+18}{14} = (x-5) \cdot 14$$

$$27x+18 = 14x-70$$

$$-14x \quad -14x$$

$$13x+18 = -70$$

$$-18 \quad -18$$

$$13x = -88$$

$$\frac{13x}{13} = \frac{-88}{13}$$

$$x = -6\frac{10}{13}$$

Note: A shortcut here is to multiply the values on the two diagonals. From there, solve like usual.

$$\frac{3x+2}{14} = \frac{x-5}{9}$$

$$9(3x+2) = 14(x-5)$$

$$27x+18 = 14x-70$$

$$x = -6\frac{10}{13}$$

Note on shortcuts: The shortcut in Example 3 is a commonly used shortcut. It is often referred to as “cross multiplying”.

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**Graphing proportions**

We can graph our information on a coordinate graph. One unit is on the x-axis and the other is on the y-axis.

Examples:

A lamp is originally \$148.

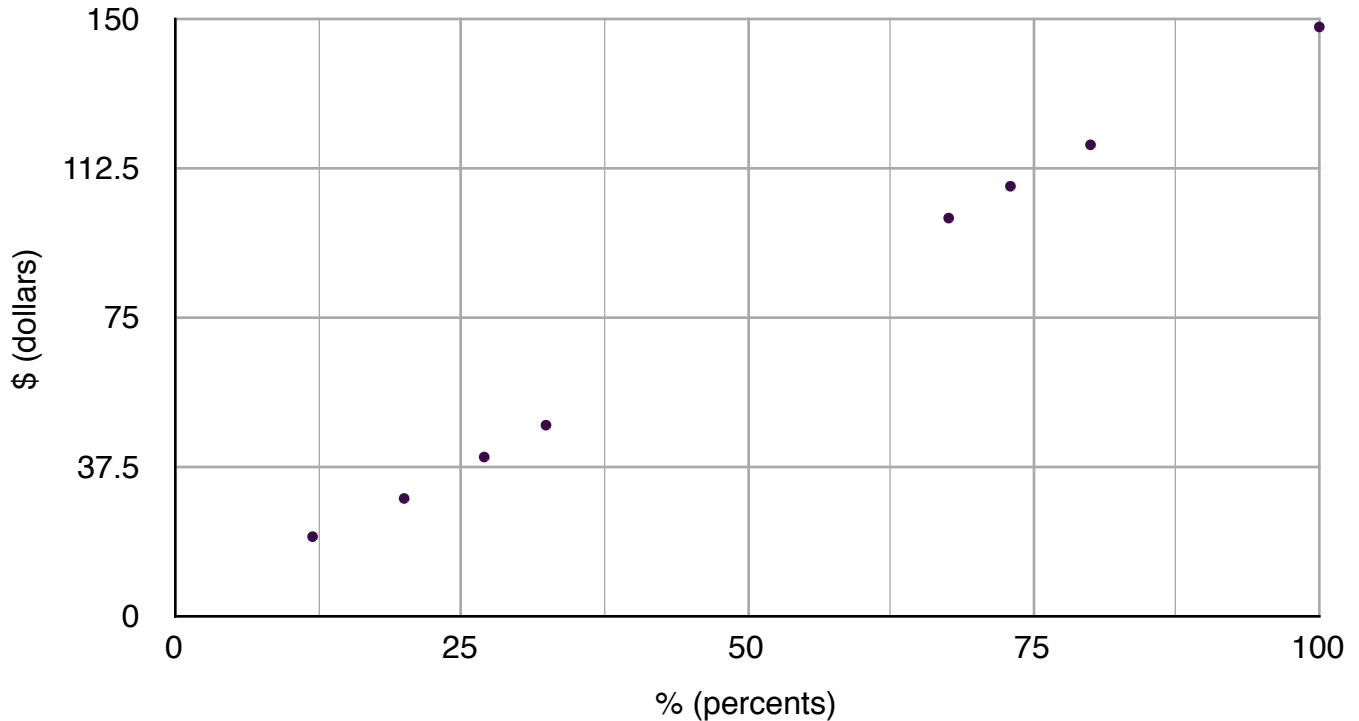
- (a) It is on sale for 20% off. What is the discount?
- (b) It is on sale for 20% off. What is the new cost?
- (c) It is now \$100; what percent are you paying now?
- (d) It is now \$100; what percent do you save?
- (e) You have a coupon for \$40 off. What percent do you save?
- (f) You have a coupon for \$40 off. What percent are you paying now?

Let's put this information in a table, SOLVE USING PROPORTIONS, and then graph it.

<b>% (percents)</b>	100	20	80					<b>x</b>
<b>\$ (dollars)</b>	148			100	48	40	108	<b>y</b>

<b>% (percents)</b>	100	20	80	$67.\overline{567}$	$32.\overline{432}$	$27.\overline{027}$	$72.\overline{972}$	<b>x</b>
<b>\$ (dollars)</b>	148	<b>29.60</b>	<b>118.40</b>	100	48	40	108	<b>y</b>

Lamp



Proportional relationships, when graphed, are **linear** and pass through the **origin, (0,0)**.