

Need Help? Go to...

Skill 8: Multiplying
Decimals, p. SK9

Multiplying Decimals

Line Up Like Whole Numbers When multiplying decimals, multiply as if the decimal numbers were whole numbers. Then count the total number of decimal places to the right of the decimals in the factors. This number will be the number of decimal places in the product.

EXAMPLE 1

Multiply as if whole numbers, then count the total number of decimal places to put in the product.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 18.1 \leftarrow \text{factor} \\
 \times 0.35 \leftarrow \text{factor} \\
 \hline
 905 \\
 543 \\
 \hline
 6335 \leftarrow \text{product}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 18.1 \leftarrow 1 \text{ decimal place} \\
 \times 0.35 \leftarrow + 2 \text{ decimal places} \\
 \hline
 905 \\
 543 \\
 \hline
 6.335 \leftarrow 3 \text{ decimal places}
 \end{array}$$

When to Write Zeros If the product does not have enough digits to place the decimal in the correct position, you will need to write in zeros. Start at the right of the product in counting the decimal places and write zeros at the left.

EXAMPLE 2

$$\begin{array}{r}
 0.72 \\
 \times 0.03 \\
 \hline
 216
 \end{array}$$

Count the decimal places,
and write zeros at the left.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 0.72 \leftarrow 2 \text{ decimal places} \\
 \times 0.03 \leftarrow + 2 \text{ decimal places} \\
 \hline
 0.0216 \leftarrow 4 \text{ decimal places}
 \end{array}$$

✓ Concept CHECK

Complete the problems. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1.
$$\begin{array}{r}
 24.7 \\
 \times 0.33 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

2.
$$\begin{array}{r}
 41.8 \\
 \times 2.14 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

3.
$$\begin{array}{r}
 0.78 \\
 \times 0.11 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

4.
$$\begin{array}{r}
 0.74 \\
 \times 0.08 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

When to Round the Answer When you are multiplying amounts of money, you will want to round the answer off to the nearest cent. Remember to put a dollar sign in the answer.

EXAMPLE 3

\$3.35 Round to the nearest cent. Put the dollar sign in the answer.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \times 4.5 \\
 15075 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{r}
 \$3.35 \leftarrow 2 \text{ places} \\
 \times 4.5 \leftarrow + 1 \text{ place} \\
 15.075 \leftarrow 3 \text{ places} \\
 \hline
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{l}
 \$3.35 \times 4.5 = \$15.075 \\
 = \$15.08 \text{ (rounded to} \\
 \text{the nearest cent)}
 \end{array}$$

Moving the Decimal Point When multiplying by 10, 100, or 1,000, count the number of zeros and then move the decimal point to the right the same number of spaces.

EXAMPLE 4

a. 6.7×10

b. 5.24×100

Count the number of zeros. Move the decimal point accordingly.

a. $6.7 \times 10 = \underline{67}$

10 has 1 zero; move decimal 1 place.

b. $5.24 \times 100 = \underline{524}$

100 has 2 zeros; move decimal 2 places.

✓ Concept CHECK

Complete the problems. Check your answers in the back of the book.

5. $\$4.15 \times 8.5$

6. 71.4×10

7. 41.861×100

Practice

8. $\begin{array}{r} 41.3 \\ \times 0.2 \\ \hline \end{array}$

9. $\begin{array}{r} 78.4 \\ \times 0.3 \\ \hline \end{array}$

10. $\begin{array}{r} 84.8 \\ \times 0.25 \\ \hline \end{array}$

11. $\begin{array}{r} 51.7 \\ \times 0.72 \\ \hline \end{array}$

12. $\begin{array}{r} 97.8 \\ \times 0.31 \\ \hline \end{array}$

13. $\begin{array}{r} 51.7 \\ \times 0.67 \\ \hline \end{array}$

14. $\begin{array}{r} 0.41 \\ \times 0.02 \\ \hline \end{array}$

15. $\begin{array}{r} 0.74 \\ \times 0.08 \\ \hline \end{array}$

16. $\begin{array}{r} 0.51 \\ \times 0.06 \\ \hline \end{array}$

17. $\begin{array}{r} \$5.15 \\ \times 85 \\ \hline \end{array}$

18. $\begin{array}{r} \$5.85 \\ \times 3.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$

19. $\begin{array}{r} \$3.35 \\ \times 7.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$

Multiply by 10.

20. 31.7

21. 5.71

Multiply by 100.

22. 32.85

23. 41.786

Multiply by 1,000.

24. 72.716

25. 7.1956

Multiply by 10,000.

26. 6.9178

27. 3.42876