Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

MATH SKILLS

Parts of 100: Calculating Percentages

Let's say you scored 85 percent (%) on your last science test. Does that mean you got 85 questions right? Probably not. The score on your test is expressed as a percentage. The word *percent* comes from Latin words meaning "parts of a 100," and that's exactly what a percentage is. A **percentage** is a ratio that compares a number with 100. Read on to learn how to find a percentage of a number.

PROCEDURE: To find a percentage of a number, first rewrite the percentage you wish to find as a decimal by moving its decimal point two places to the *left*. Then multiply this decimal number by the number you are finding the percentage of. The result is your percentage.

SAMPLE PROBLEM: What is 85% of 40?

Step 1: Rewrite the percentage by moving the decimal point two places to the left.

$$85\% \rightarrow 8\overset{\curvearrowright}{5}\overset{\curvearrowright}{\rightarrow} 0.85$$

Step 2: Multiply the decimal by the number you are calculating the percentage of.

$$0.85 \times 40 = 34$$

85% of 40 is 34.

Practice Your Percentages!

1. Calculate the percentages of the following numbers:

a. 30% of 100 _____ **b.** 90% of 45 _____

c. 67% of 67 _____ **d.** 4% of 25 _____

e. 15% of 225 _____ **f.** 3.5% of 40 _____

2. You read in the local paper that the eagle population in Holler State Park has increased 25 percent since 1994. If the population of eagles in 1994 was 28 eagles, how many live in the park now?

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Challenge Yourself!

3. During a summer drought, a city's water supply is decreased by 35 percent. If the city had a reserve of 45 million liters of water before the drought, how much do they have today?

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