

Fractions in Everyday Life

Recipes, clocks, sales and scorelines: eight places you use fractions every week, each with the numbers worked out.



Scaling recipes

A cake for 8 uses 300 g of flour.
For 6 people use $\frac{6}{8} = \frac{3}{4}$ of it:
 $300 \div 4 \times 3 = 225$ g.



Telling the time

A quarter of an hour is $60 \div 4 = 15$ minutes, three quarters is 45 minutes, and 20 minutes is $\frac{1}{3}$ of an hour.



Prices and discounts

' $\frac{1}{3}$ off' a EUR 45 jacket saves $45 \div 3 = \text{EUR } 15$, so you pay EUR 30.
With 100 cents to the euro, $\frac{1}{4}$ of a euro is 25 cents.



Sharing fairly

3 pizzas shared equally by 4 friends: each gets $3 \div 4 = \frac{3}{4}$ of a pizza. A fraction is a division.



Metric measurements

$\frac{1}{2}$ litre = 500 ml, $\frac{3}{4}$ kilogram = 750 g, $\frac{1}{4}$ metre = 25 cm and $\frac{1}{5}$ kilometre = 200 m.



Sport statistics

A football match has two halves of 45 minutes. Scoring 18 of 24 free throws is $18/24 = \frac{3}{4} = 75\%$.



Chance

A fair coin lands heads with probability $\frac{1}{2}$. Rolling a 6 on a fair dice: 1 way out of 6, so $\frac{1}{6}$.



Gauges and batteries

Fuel gauges are often marked E, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, F. A phone at 25% has about a quarter of its charge left.



One method for most of them

To find a fraction of an amount, divide by the denominator, then multiply by the numerator. $\frac{2}{5}$ of 40 = $40 \div 5 \times 2 = 16$.

NEXT IN THE SERIES

8. Fractions Quiz: Test Yourself