Guide to:
Fraction of an amount

maths Links

Explanation:

To find a fraction of an amount without a calculator, remember the rule: **"Divide by the bottom (denominator), then multiply by the top (numerator)"**. Dividing first keeps the numbers small and easy to work with.

In multi-step word problems, pay close attention to whether the question asks for the fraction itself or for the **amount remaining** (subtract your answer from the starting total).

Example 1: Work out $\frac{3}{8}$ of **£72**

Solution:

Step 1: Divide by the denominator (8) to find $\frac{1}{8}$:

• £72 ÷ 8 = **£9**

Step 2: Multiply by the numerator (3) to find $\frac{3}{8}$:

• £9 × 3 = **£27**

Answer: £27

Example 2: Of **420 pupils**, $\frac{3}{7}$ walk to school, $\frac{2}{5}$ catch the bus, and the rest cycle. How many pupils cycle?

Solution:

• **Walk:** (420 ÷ 7) × 3 = 60 × 3 = **180 pupils**
• **Bus:** (420 ÷ 5) × 2 = 84 × 2 = **168 pupils**
• **Walk + Bus:** 180 + 168 = 348 pupils
• **Cycle:** 420 − 348 = **Answer: 72 pupils**

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