Guide to:
Percentage change

maths Links

Explanation:

To calculate the **percentage change** (or percentage profit / loss), first subtract the two amounts to find the actual change, then divide by the **original amount** and multiply by 100: **Percentage Change = $\frac{\text{Change}}{\text{Original}}$ × 100**.

A very common exam mistake is dividing by the new amount instead of the original amount. Always check which value came first in time and put that **original value** on the bottom of the fraction.

Example 1: A jacket is reduced in a sale from **£80** to **£68**. Work out the percentage decrease.

Solution:

Change = £80 − £68 = **£12**

Original price = **£80**

% decrease = $\frac{12}{80}$ × 100 = 0.15 × 100

Answer: 15%

Example 2: A house was bought for **£160,000** and sold for **£196,000**. Calculate the percentage profit.

Solution:

Profit (change) = 196,000 − 160,000 = **£36,000**

% profit = $\frac{36{,}000}{160{,}000}$ × 100

= 0.225 × 100 = 22.5%

Answer: 22.5%

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