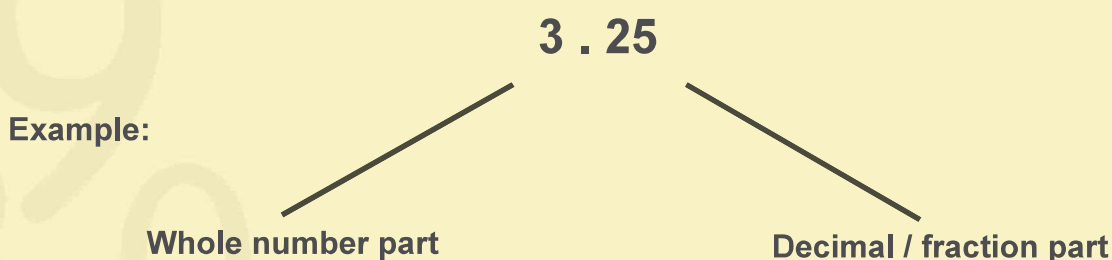


Developing Number Sense 3 - Decimal Point: Just a Point?

Teacher and Tutor Guidelines

Explain to the group that the decimal point is used to separate the whole number part from the fraction part or decimal part of that number.



In Ireland and the United Kingdom the decimal point is written as a dot e.g. 3.25. In Europe the decimal point is written as a comma e.g. 3,25.

Sometimes things just don't make sense if there are no decimal points.

Give the group an example and get them to discuss whether it is true or not.

'John was 16 metres tall'

- Is this a reasonable height for John? What is missing?
- Where should it go?

Re-write the statement correctly.

'John was 1.6 metres tall'

Then read the story "Peggy Goes Shopping" (this story is provided as an example). Teachers or tutors should adapt/write a 'story' to suit their learners. Simple sentences can be used instead of a story to reduce the literacy requirement for learners as appropriate.

When you have finished reading the story:

- 1 Organise the learners in groups of two or three and ask them to read the story again and put in the decimal point where they think it is needed to make the story make sense.
- 2 Ask the learners to write another paragraph to the story about what Peggy did for the rest of the day. Try to include some numbers with decimal points.

- 3 Give each learner a piece of paper. Ask the students to write three sentences based on their own life which need the reader to put a decimal point in the right place. Gather the sentences, copy them and then get the class in their groups to put the decimal points into the sentences.
- 4 Younger learners could be asked to remove a digit to make a story make sense.

Sample Story

Peggy Goes Shopping

Peggy decided to go out shopping for dinner. First she went into the butcher shop and bought 15kg of steak. She went in to the vegetable shop and bought 25kg of potatoes and 1kg of carrots. The potatoes and carrots cost her €799. On her way home Mary met her friend Peter whose wife had just had a beautiful 375kg baby girl. Peter had visited them in the hospital 175 km away. It had only taken him 25 minutes to drive home as the traffic was very light. Peggy said goodbye to Peter and walked home.

Task:

Use decimal points to make sense of the story.