

Dividing Decimals

The parts of a division question are as follows:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{quotient} \\ \text{divisor} \overline{) \text{dividend}} \end{array} \quad \text{dividend} \div \text{divisor} = \text{quotient} \quad \frac{\text{dividend}}{\text{divisor}} = \text{quotient}$$

With division of decimals, the divisor must be a whole number. To change the divisor to a whole number, move the decimal point to the right, to the end of the numbers. You must also move the decimal point the same number of places to the right in the dividend.

Example 3

Divide the following.

a) $2 \div 5 = 0.4$

b) $31.8 \div 2 = 15.9$

c) $\frac{-434}{0.7} = -620$

d) $0.0034 \div -0.2 = -0.017$

e) $8.672 \div 1.6 = 5.420$

f) $\frac{710}{0.05} = 14200$