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In mathematics, a percentage is a number or ratio expressed as a fraction of 100. To find the percentage of a number means to find a fraction of any given amount. For example, let's say 50 represents the amount of marbles you have in a jar. The jar was knocked over by your pet cat and 25% of the marbles fell to the floor. If you have 50 marbles and 25% of them fell how much (in percentage) do you have left in the jar? To solve, you must find out how much that percent of the total is. Since the total is 100 we need to find out what's 25% of 100. "Of" is also another word for multiply. To solve you must turn 25% into a fraction; to do that you put 25 over 100 then multiply by 50. That gives you $\frac{25}{100} \times \frac{50}{1}$ which gives you $\frac{1250}{100} = 12.5$. In shopping stores, sales tax and discounts are almost always shown as a percentage. Percent are used in retail to represent markdowns on merchandise that has gone on sale.