

# Siyavula textbooks: Grade 10 Maths [NCS]

**Collection Editor:**

Free High School Science Texts Project



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**C O N N E X I O N S**

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# Review of Past Work<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction

This chapter describes some basic concepts which you have seen in earlier grades and lays the foundation for the remainder of this book. You should feel confident with the content in this chapter, before moving on with the rest of the book.

You can try out your skills on exercises in this chapter and ask your teacher for more questions just like them. You can also try to make up your own questions, solve them and try them out on your classmates to see if you get the same answers.

Practice is the only way to get good at maths!

## What is a number?

A number is a way to represent quantity. Numbers are not something that you can touch or hold, because they are not physical. But you can touch three apples, three pencils, three books. You can never just touch three, you can only touch three of something. However, you do not need to see three apples in front of you to know that if you take one apple away, there will be two apples left. You can just think about it. That is your brain representing the apples in numbers and then performing arithmetic on them.

A number represents quantity because we can look at the world around us and quantify it using numbers. How many minutes? How many kilometers? How many apples? How much money? How much medicine? These are all questions which can only be answered using numbers to tell us “how much” of something we want to measure.

A number can be written in many different ways and it is always best to choose the most appropriate way of writing the number. For example, “a half” may be spoken aloud or written in words, but that makes mathematics very difficult and also means that only people who speak the same language as you can understand what you mean. A better way of writing “a half” is as a fraction  $\frac{1}{2}$  or as a decimal number 0,5. It is still the same number, no matter which way you write it.

In high school, all the numbers which you will see are called *real numbers* and mathematicians use the symbol  $\mathbb{R}$  to represent the *set of all real numbers*, which simply means all of the real numbers. Some of these real numbers can be written in ways that others cannot. Different types of numbers are described in detail in Section 1.12.

## Sets

A *set* is a group of objects with a well-defined criterion for membership. For example, the criterion for belonging to a set of apples, is that the object must be an apple. The set of apples can then be divided into red apples and green apples, but they are all still apples. All the red apples form another set which is a *sub-set* of the set of apples. A sub-set is part of a set. All the green apples form another sub-set.

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<sup>1</sup>This content is available online at <<http://siyavula.cnx.org/content/m31330/1.4/>>.

Now we come to the idea of a **union**, which is used to combine things. The symbol for **union** is  $\cup$ . Here, we use it to combine two or more intervals. For example, if  $x$  is a real number such that  $1 < x \leq 3$  or  $6 \leq x < 10$ , then the set of all the possible  $x$  values is:

$$(1, 3] \cup [6, 10) \quad (1)$$

where the  $\cup$  sign means the union (or combination) of the two intervals. We use the set and interval notation and the symbols described because it is easier than having to write everything out in words.

## Letters and Arithmetic

The simplest thing that can be done with numbers is adding, subtracting, multiplying or dividing them. When two numbers are added, subtracted, multiplied or divided, you are performing *arithmetic*<sup>2</sup>. These four basic operations can be performed on any two real numbers.

Mathematics as a language uses special notation to write things down. So instead of:

$$\text{oneplusoneisequaltotwo} \quad (2)$$

mathematicians write

$$1 + 1 = 2 \quad (3)$$

In earlier grades, place holders were used to indicate missing numbers in an equation.

$$\begin{aligned} 1 + \square &= 2 \\ 4 - \square &= 2 \\ \square + 3 - 2\square &= 2 \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

However, place holders only work well for simple equations. For more advanced mathematical workings, letters are usually used to represent numbers.

$$\begin{aligned} 1 + x &= 2 \\ 4 - y &= 2 \\ z + 3 - 2z &= 2 \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

These letters are referred to as **variables**, since they can take on any value depending on what is required. For example,  $x = 1$  in (5), but  $x = 26$  in  $2 + x = 28$ .

A **constant** has a fixed value. The number 1 is a constant. The *speed of light* in a vacuum is also a constant which has been defined to be exactly  $299\,792\,458 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  (read metres per second). The speed of light is a big number and it takes up space to always write down the entire number. Therefore, letters are also used to represent some constants. In the case of the speed of light, it is accepted that the letter  $c$  represents the speed of light. Such constants represented by letters occur most often in physics and chemistry.

Additionally, letters can be used to describe a situation mathematically. For example, the following equation

$$x + y = z \quad (6)$$

can be used to describe the situation of finding how much change can be expected for buying an item. In this equation,  $y$  represents the price of the item you are buying,  $x$  represents the amount of change you

---

<sup>2</sup>Arithmetic is derived from the Greek word *arithmos* meaning *number*.



should get back and  $z$  is the amount of money given to the cashier. So, if the price is R10 and you gave the cashier R15, then write R15 instead of  $z$  and R10 instead of  $y$  and the change is then  $x$ .

$$x + 10 = 15 \quad (7)$$

We will learn how to “solve” this equation towards the end of this chapter.

## Addition and Subtraction

Addition (+) and subtraction (−) are the most basic operations between numbers but they are very closely related to each other. You can think of subtracting as being the opposite of adding since adding a number and then subtracting the same number will not change what you started with. For example, if we start with  $a$  and add  $b$ , then subtract  $b$ , we will just get back to  $a$  again:

$$\begin{aligned} a + b - b &= a \\ 5 + 2 - 2 &= 5 \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

If we look at a number line, then addition means that we move to the right and subtraction means that we move to the left.

The order in which numbers are added does not matter, but the order in which numbers are subtracted does matter. This means that:

$$\begin{aligned} a + b &= b + a \\ a - b &\neq b - a \quad \text{if } a \neq b \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

The sign  $\neq$  means “is not equal to”. For example,  $2 + 3 = 5$  and  $3 + 2 = 5$ , but  $5 - 3 = 2$  and  $3 - 5 = -2$ .  $-2$  is a negative number, which is explained in detail in "Negative Numbers" (Section : Negative Numbers).

### Commutativity for Addition

The fact that  $a + b = b + a$ , is known as the *commutative* property for addition.

## Multiplication and Division

Just like addition and subtraction, multiplication ( $\times$ ,  $\cdot$ ) and division ( $\div$ ,  $/$ ) are opposites of each other. Multiplying by a number and then dividing by the same number gets us back to the start again:

$$\begin{aligned} a \times b \div b &= a \\ 5 \times 4 \div 4 &= 5 \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Sometimes you will see a multiplication of letters as a dot or without any symbol. Don't worry, its exactly the same thing. Mathematicians are efficient and like to write things in the shortest, neatest way possible.

$$\begin{aligned} abc &= a \times b \times c \\ a \cdot b \cdot c &= a \times b \times c \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

It is usually neater to write known numbers to the left, and letters to the right. So although  $4x$  and  $x4$  are the same thing, it looks better to write  $4x$ . In this case, the “4” is a constant that is referred to as the *coefficient* of  $x$ .

## Commutativity for Multiplication

The fact that  $ab = ba$  is known as the *commutative* property of multiplication. Therefore, both addition and multiplication are described as commutative operations.

## Brackets

Brackets<sup>3</sup> in mathematics are used to show the order in which you must do things. This is important as you can get different answers depending on the order in which you do things. For example:

$$(5 \times 5) + 20 = 45 \quad (12)$$

whereas

$$5 \times (5 + 20) = 125 \quad (13)$$

If there are no brackets, you should always do multiplications and divisions first and then additions and subtractions<sup>4</sup>. You can always put your own brackets into equations using this rule to make things easier for yourself, for example:

$$\begin{aligned} a \times b + c \div d &= (a \times b) + (c \div d) \\ 5 \times 5 + 20 \div 4 &= (5 \times 5) + (20 \div 4) \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

If you see a multiplication outside a bracket like this

$$\begin{aligned} a(b + c) \\ 3(4 - 3) \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

then it means you have to multiply each part inside the bracket by the number outside

$$\begin{aligned} a(b + c) &= ab + ac \\ 3(4 - 3) &= 3 \times 4 - 3 \times 3 = 12 - 9 = 3 \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

unless you can simplify everything inside the bracket into a single term. In fact, in the above example, it would have been smarter to have done this

$$3(4 - 3) = 3 \times (1) = 3 \quad (17)$$

It can happen with letters too

$$3(4a - 3a) = 3 \times (a) = 3a \quad (18)$$

---

<sup>3</sup>Sometimes people say “parentheses” instead of “brackets”.

<sup>4</sup>Multiplying and dividing can be performed in any order as it doesn't matter. Likewise it doesn't matter which order you do addition and subtraction. Just as long as you do any  $\times \div$  before any  $+-$ .

## Distributivity

The fact that  $a(b + c) = ab + ac$  is known as the *distributive* property.

If there are two brackets multiplied by each other, then you can do it one step at a time:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (a + b)(c + d) &= a(c + d) + b(c + d) \\
 &= ac + ad + bc + bd \\
 (a + 3)(4 + d) &= a(4 + d) + 3(4 + d) \\
 &= 4a + ad + 12 + 3d
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{19}$$

## Negative Numbers

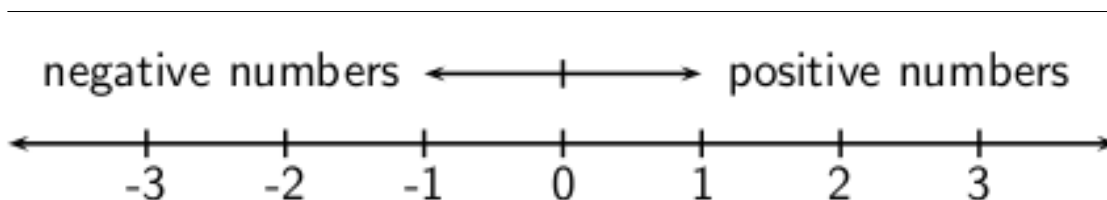
### What is a negative number?

Negative numbers can be very confusing to begin with, but there is nothing to be afraid of. The numbers that are used most often are greater than zero. These numbers are known as *positive numbers*.

A negative number is a number that is less than zero. So, if we were to take a positive number  $a$  and subtract it from zero, the answer would be the negative of  $a$ .

$$0 - a = -a \tag{20}$$

On a number line, a negative number appears to the left of zero and a positive number appears to the right of zero.



**Figure 1:** On the number line, numbers increase towards the right and decrease towards the left. Positive numbers appear to the right of zero and negative numbers appear to the left of zero.

---

### Working with Negative Numbers

When you are adding a negative number, it is the same as subtracting that number if it were positive. Likewise, if you subtract a negative number, it is the same as adding the number if it were positive. Numbers are either positive or negative and we call this their sign. A positive number has a positive sign (+) and a negative number has a negative sign (-).

Subtraction is actually the same as adding a *negative number*.

In this example,  $a$  and  $b$  are positive numbers, but  $-b$  is a negative number

$$\begin{aligned}
 a - b &= a + (-b) \\
 5 - 3 &= 5 + (-3)
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{21}$$

So, this means that subtraction is simply a short-cut for adding a negative number and instead of writing  $a + (-b)$ , we write  $a - b$ . This also means that  $-b + a$  is the same as  $a - b$ . Now, which do you find easier to work out?

Most people find that the first way is a bit more difficult to work out than the second way. For example, most people find  $12 - 3$  a lot easier to work out than  $-3 + 12$ , even though they are the same thing. So  $a - b$ , which looks neater and requires less writing is the accepted way of writing subtractions.

Table 1 shows how to calculate the sign of the answer when you multiply two numbers together. The first column shows the sign of the first number, the second column gives the sign of the second number and the third column shows what sign the answer will be.

$a$	$b$	$a \times b$ or $a \div b$
+	+	+
+	-	-
-	+	-
-	-	+

**Table 1:** Table of signs for multiplying or dividing two numbers.

So multiplying or dividing a negative number by a positive number always gives you a negative number, whereas multiplying or dividing numbers which have the same sign always gives a positive number. For example,  $2 \times 3 = 6$  and  $-2 \times -3 = 6$ , but  $-2 \times 3 = -6$  and  $2 \times -3 = -6$ .

Adding numbers works slightly differently (see Table 2). The first column shows the sign of the first number, the second column gives the sign of the second number and the third column shows what sign the answer will be.

$a$	$b$	$a + b$
+	+	+
+	-	?
-	+	?
-	-	-

**Table 2:** Table of signs for adding two numbers.

If you add two positive numbers you will always get a positive number, but if you add two negative numbers you will always get a negative number. If the numbers have a different sign, then the sign of the answer depends on which one is bigger.

## Living Without the Number Line

The number line in Figure 1 is a good way to visualise what negative numbers are, but it can get very inefficient to use it every time you want to add or subtract negative numbers. To keep things simple, we will write down three tips that you can use to make working with negative numbers a little bit easier. These tips will let you work out what the answer is when you add or subtract numbers which may be negative, and will also help you keep your work tidy and easier to understand.

### Negative Numbers Tip 1

If you are given an expression like  $-a + b$ , then it is easier to move the numbers around so that the expression looks easier. In this case, we have seen that adding a negative number to a positive number is the same as subtracting the number from the positive number. So,

$$\begin{aligned} -a + b &= b - a \\ -5 + 10 &= 10 + (-5) \\ &= 10 - 5 \\ &= 5 \end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

This makes the expression easier to understand. For example, a question like “What is  $-7 + 11$ ?” looks a lot more complicated than “What is  $11 - 7$ ?”, even though they are exactly the same question.

### Negative Numbers Tip 2

When you have two negative numbers like  $-3 - 7$ , you can calculate the answer by simply adding together the numbers as if they were positive and then putting a negative sign in front.

$$\begin{aligned} -c - d &= -(c + d) \\ -7 - 2 &= -(7 + 2) = -9 \end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

### Negative Numbers Tip 3

In Table 2 we saw that the sign of two numbers added together depends on which one is bigger. This tip tells us that all we need to do is take the smaller number away from the larger one and remember to give the answer the sign of the larger number. In this equation,  $F$  is bigger than  $e$ .

$$\begin{aligned} e - F &= -(F - e) \\ 2 - 11 &= -(11 - 2) = -9 \end{aligned} \tag{24}$$

You can even combine these tips: for example, you can use Tip 1 on  $-10 + 3$  to get  $3 - 10$  and then use Tip 3 to get  $-(10 - 3) = -7$ .

### Negative Numbers

1. Calculate:

(a) $(-5) - (-3)$	(b) $(-4) + 2$	(c) $(-10) \div (-2)$
(d) $11 - (-9)$	(e) $-16 - (6)$	(f) $-9 \div 3 \times 2$
(g) $(-1) \times 24 \div 8 \times (-3)$	(h) $(-2) + (-7)$	(i) $1 - 12$
(j) $3 - 64 + 1$	(k) $-5 - 5 - 5$	(l) $-6 + 25$
(m) $-9 + 8 - 7 + 6 - 5 + 4 - 3 + 2 - 1$		

Table 3

[Click here for the solution](#)<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup>See the file at <http://siyavula.cnx.org/content/m31330/latest/http://www.fhsst.org/l3B>

2. Say whether the sign of the answer is + or –

(a) $-5 + 6$	(b) $-5 + 1$	(c) $-5 \div -5$
(d) $-5 \div 5$	(e) $5 \div -5$	(f) $5 \div 5$
(g) $-5 \times -5$	(h) $-5 \times 5$	(i) $5 \times -5$
(j) $5 \times 5$		

**Table 4**

Click here for the solution<sup>6</sup>

## Rearranging Equations

Now that we have described the basic rules of negative and positive numbers and what to do when you add, subtract, multiply and divide them, we are ready to tackle some real mathematics problems!

Earlier in this chapter, we wrote a general equation for calculating how much change ( $x$ ) we can expect if we know how much an item costs ( $y$ ) and how much we have given the cashier ( $z$ ). The equation is:

$$x + y = z \quad (25)$$

So, if the price is R10 and you gave the cashier R15, then write R15 instead of  $z$  and R10 instead of  $y$ .

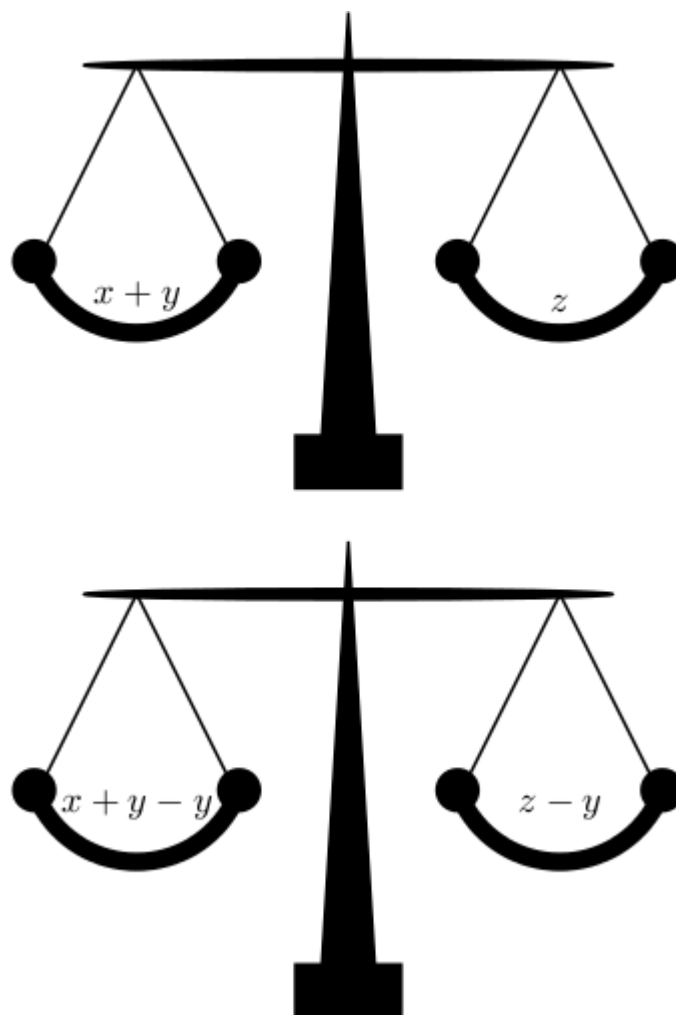
$$x + 10 = 15 \quad (26)$$

Now that we have written this equation down, how exactly do we go about finding what the change is? In mathematical terms, this is known as solving an equation for an unknown ( $x$  in this case). We want to re-arrange the terms in the equation, so that only  $x$  is on the left hand side of the = sign and everything else is on the right.

The most important thing to remember is that an equation is like a set of weighing scales. In order to keep the scales balanced, whatever is done to one side must be done to the other.

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<sup>6</sup>See the file at <<http://siyavula.cnx.org/content/m31330/latest/http://www.fhsst.org/l3K>>



**Figure 2:** An equation is like a set of weighing scales. In order to keep the scales balanced, you must do the same thing to both sides. So, if you add, subtract, multiply or divide the one side, you must add, subtract, multiply or divide the other side too.

---

### Method: Rearranging Equations

You can add, subtract, multiply or divide both sides of an equation by any number you want, as long as you always do it to both sides.

So for our example we could subtract  $y$  from both sides

$$\begin{aligned}
 x + y &= z \\
 x + y - y &= z - y \\
 x &= z - y \\
 x &= 15 - 10 \\
 &= 5
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{27}$$

Now we can see that the change is the price subtracted from the amount paid to the cashier. In the example, the change should be R5. In real life we can do this in our heads; the human brain is very smart and can do arithmetic without even knowing it.

When you subtract a number from both sides of an equation, it looks like you just moved a positive number from one side and it became a negative on the other, which is exactly what happened. Likewise, if you move a multiplied number from one side to the other, it looks like it changed to a divide. This is because you really just divided both sides by that number and a number divided by itself is just 1

$$\begin{aligned}
 a(5 + c) &= 3a \\
 a(5 + c) \div a &= 3a \div a \\
 \frac{a}{a} \times (5 + c) &= 3 \times \frac{a}{a} \\
 1 \times (5 + c) &= 3 \times 1 \\
 5 + c &= 3 \\
 c &= 3 - 5 = -2
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{28}$$

However, you must be careful when doing this, as it is easy to make mistakes.

**The following is the WRONG thing to do**

$$\begin{aligned}
 5a + c &= 3a \\
 5 + c &= 3
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{29}$$

Can you see why it is wrong? It is wrong because we did not divide the  $c$  term by  $a$  as well. The correct thing to do is

$$\begin{aligned}
 5a + c &= 3a \\
 5 + c \div a &= 3 \\
 c \div a &= 3 - 5 = -2
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{30}$$

## Rearranging Equations

1. If  $3(2r - 5) = 27$ , then  $2r - 5 = \dots$ . Click here for the solution<sup>7</sup>
2. Find the value for  $x$  if  $0,5(x - 8) = 0,2x + 11$  Click here for the solution<sup>8</sup>
3. Solve  $9 - 2n = 3(n + 2)$  Click here for the solution<sup>9</sup>
4. Change the formula  $P = A + Akt$  to  $A =$  Click here for the solution<sup>10</sup>
5. Solve for  $x$ :  $\frac{1}{ax} + \frac{1}{bx} = 1$  Click here for the solution<sup>11</sup>

<sup>7</sup>See the file at <<http://siyavula.cnx.org/content/m31330/latest/http://www.fhsst.org/l3k>>

<sup>8</sup>See the file at <<http://siyavula.cnx.org/content/m31330/latest/http://www.fhsst.org/l30>>

<sup>9</sup>See the file at <<http://siyavula.cnx.org/content/m31330/latest/http://www.fhsst.org/l38>>

<sup>10</sup>See the file at <<http://siyavula.cnx.org/content/m31330/latest/http://www.fhsst.org/l39>>

<sup>11</sup>See the file at <<http://siyavula.cnx.org/content/m31330/latest/http://www.fhsst.org/l3X>>



## Fractions and Decimal Numbers

A fraction is one number divided by another number. There are several ways to write a number divided by another one, such as  $a \div b$ ,  $a/b$  and  $\frac{a}{b}$ . The first way of writing a fraction is very hard to work with, so we will use only the other two. We call the number on the top (left) the *numerator* and the number on the bottom (right) the *denominator*. For example, in the fraction  $1/5$  or  $\frac{1}{5}$ , the numerator is 1 and the denominator is 5.

### Definition - Fraction

The word *fraction* means *part of a whole*.

The *reciprocal* of a fraction is the fraction turned upside down, in other words the numerator becomes the denominator and the denominator becomes the numerator. So, the reciprocal of  $\frac{2}{3}$  is  $\frac{3}{2}$ .

A fraction multiplied by its reciprocal is always equal to 1 and can be written

$$\frac{a}{b} \times \frac{b}{a} = 1 \quad (31)$$

This is because dividing by a number is the same as multiplying by its reciprocal.

### Definition - Multiplicative Inverse

The reciprocal of a number is also known as the multiplicative inverse.

A decimal number is a number which has an integer part and a fractional part. The integer and the fractional parts are separated by a *decimal point*, which is written as a comma in South African schools. For example the number  $3\frac{14}{100}$  can be written much more neatly as 3,14.

All real numbers can be written as a decimal number. However, some numbers would take a huge amount of paper (and ink) to write out in full! Some decimal numbers will have a number which will repeat itself, such as 0,33333... where there are an infinite number of 3's. We can write this decimal value by using a dot above the repeating number, so  $0,\dot{3} = 0,33333\dots$ . If there are two repeating numbers such as 0,121212... then you can place dots<sup>12</sup> on each of the repeated numbers  $0,\dot{1}\dot{2} = 0,121212\dots$ . These kinds of repeating decimals are called *recurring decimals*.

Table 5 lists some common fractions and their decimal forms.

Fraction	Decimal Form
$\frac{1}{20}$	0,05
$\frac{1}{16}$	0,0625
$\frac{1}{10}$	0,1
$\frac{1}{8}$	0,125
$\frac{1}{6}$	0,16 $\dot{6}$
$\frac{1}{5}$	0,2
$\frac{1}{2}$	0,5
$\frac{3}{4}$	0,75

**Table 5:** Some common fractions and their equivalent decimal forms.

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<sup>12</sup>or a bar, like  $0,\overline{12}$

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