

# Maths Refresher

## Ratios and Unit Conversions

Learning, Teaching  
and Student Engagement

# Ratios and Unit Conversions

---

## Learning intentions ....

- **Ratios**
  - Description
  - Proportional reasoning
  - Golden Ratio
  - Fibonacci sequence
- **Unit Conversions**
  - Description
  - Strategy: sort > strategise > solve > check
- **Rate**
  - Description

## The Mullet Ratio

$$R_m = \frac{\text{Party}}{\text{Business}}$$

$$R_m = \frac{17\text{cm}}{9\text{cm}}$$

$$R_m = 1.\bar{8}$$



# Ratio

- Ratio is very closely related to fractions.
- **A ratio is a numerical comparison between two quantities of the same kind.** The ratio itself has no units.
- Ratios use the symbol “ : ”
- 1:3 means 1 part to 3 parts. It is NOT the same as  $\frac{1}{3}$  !
- The rectangle is 1 part grey to 3 parts white.
- Ratio is 1:3
- The rectangle is 1 part grey and a total of 4 parts. Hence the fraction is  $\frac{1}{4}$  and not  $\frac{1}{3}$



# Proportional reasoning

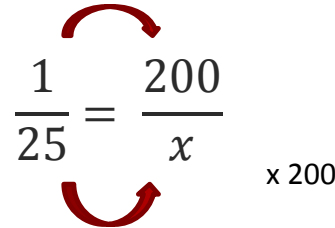
**For example:** My 2 stroke mower requires petrol and oil mixed to a ratio of 1:25. This means that I add 1 part oil to 25 parts petrol.

The ratio must stay the same – it must be in the same ‘proportions.’ So if I add 200mls of oil to my tin:

$$1:25 = 200:x$$

$$\frac{1}{25} = \frac{200}{x}$$

We know that to scale up from 1 to 200, we have to multiply the numerator by 200:

$$\frac{1}{25} = \frac{200}{x} \quad \times 200$$


We then have to do the same to the denominator

$$\text{So, } 25 \times 200 = 5000$$

$$x = 5000$$

Therefore, I need 5000mls of petrol to 200mls of oil

The total volume of the mixture = 5200mls (= to 5.2 litres).

# Proportional reasoning

---

Mathematically:

1 : 25 is the same as

2 : 50 is the same as

100: 2500 is the same as

200:5000 and so on.



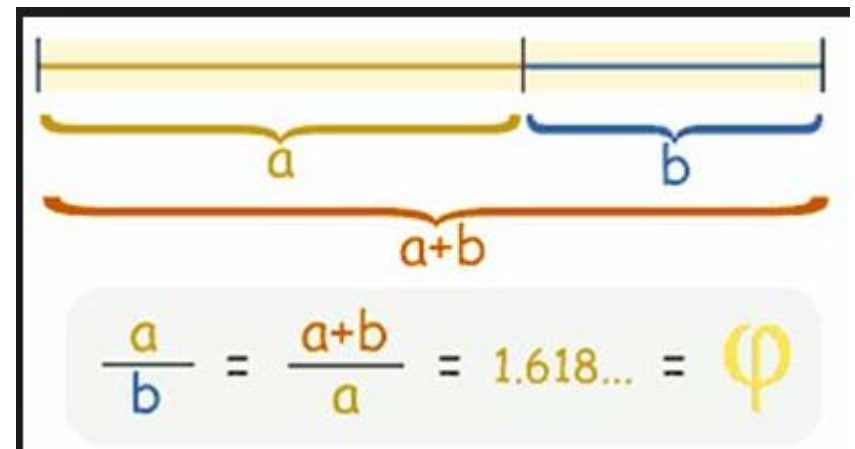
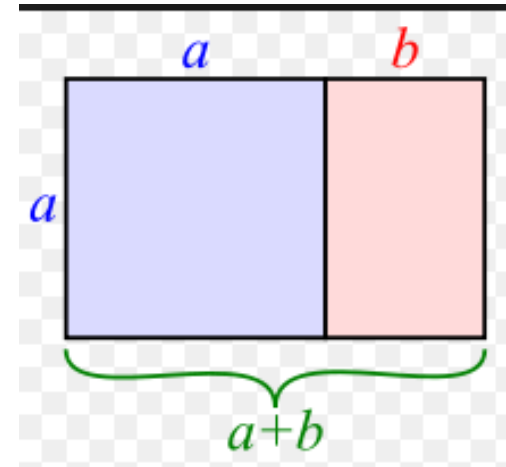
**Solve a proportion with unknown variable word problem”**

<https://www.khanacademy.org/math/cc-seventh-grade-math/cc-7th-ratio-proportion/cc-7th-constructing-proportions/v/find-an-unknown-in-a-proportion-2>

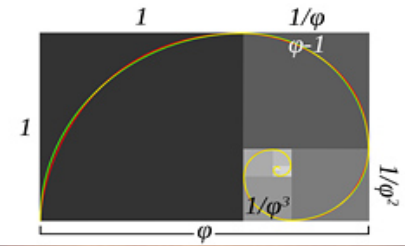
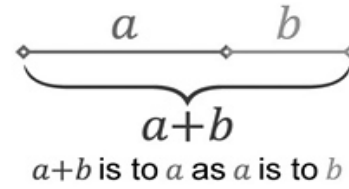
# Ratio

Ratios in the real world:

- House plans 1cm:1m = 1:100
- Map scales 1:200 000
- Circles C:D is as  $\pi$ : 1
- 1.618:1

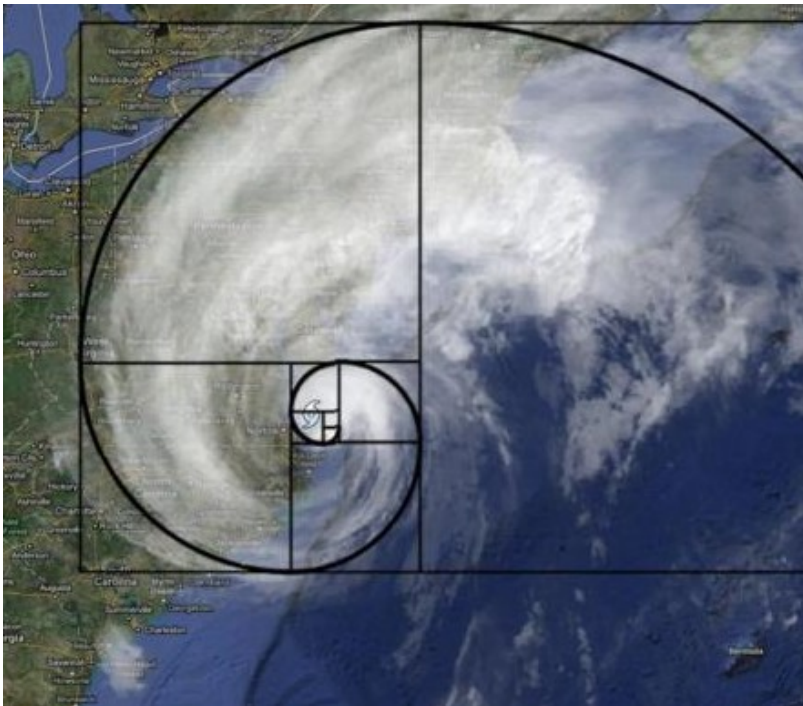


# Ratio



## Ratios in the real world

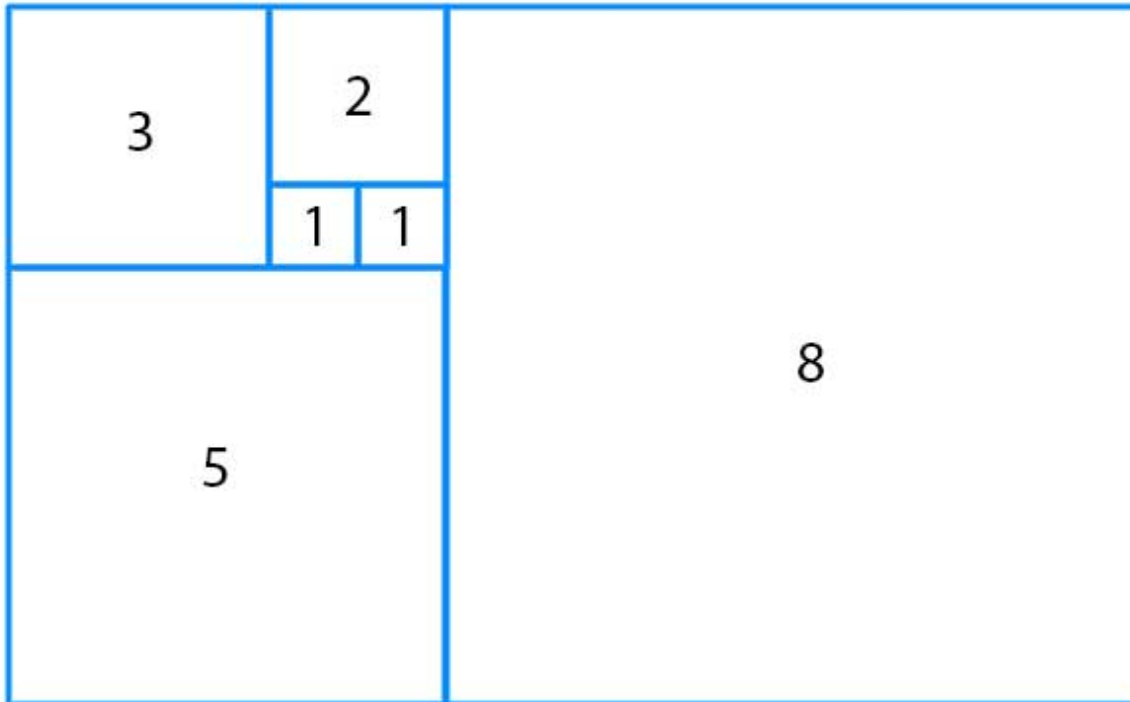
- Golden Ratio  
 $a:b$  is as  $ab:a$





# Fibonacci sequence

- 1,1,2,3,5,8, 13.....what is the pattern?
- The ratio between two numbers such as 8:13 is similar to the golden ratio



# Your turn ...

## RATIO

### Practise problems:

Write each ratio in its simplest form:

1. \$450 : \$600
2. 25mm : 1.00m
3. 2.5cm : 5.00km
4. 30sec : 1hr
5. 4.5kg : 9.0g
6. 250mL : 2.00L
7. 400m : 80mm
8. 50kg : 1.20t

# Ratio Answers

---

- $\$450 : \$600 = 3:4$
- $25\text{mm} : 1.00\text{m} = 25:1000 = 1:40$
- $2.5\text{cm} : 5.00\text{km} = 2.5:500\ 000 = 1:200\ 000$
- $30\text{sec} : 1\text{hr} = 30:(1 \times 60 \times 60) = 30:3600 = 1:120$
- $4.5\text{kg} : 9.0\text{g} = 4500:9 = 500:1$
- $250\text{mL} : 2.00\text{L} = 250:2000 = 1:8$
- $400\text{m} : 80\text{mm} = 4000\ 000:80 = 5000:1$
- $50\text{kg} : 1.20\text{t} = 50:1200 = 1:24$

# Unit Conversion

---

Let's look at conversions symbolically.

- $1m = 100cm = 1000mm$

or

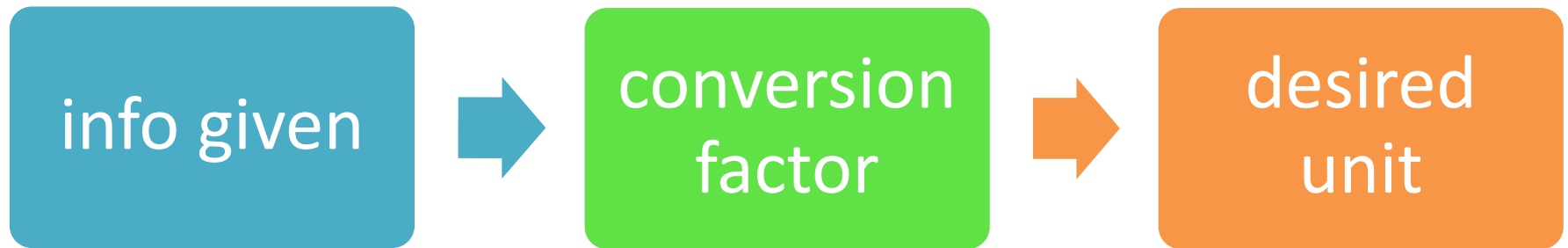
- we could say that  $1mm = \frac{1}{10}cm = \frac{1}{1000}m$

## Unit Conversion rules:

- Always write the unit of measure associated with every number.
- Always include the units of measure in the calculations.
- Unit conversion requires algebraic thinking which will be covered in the next booklet; however, here you will be introduced to the concept. Let's convert 58mm into metres.  $58mm \times \frac{1m}{1000mm} = 0.058m$
- The quantity  $\frac{1m}{1000mm}$  is called a **conversion factor or solution map**

# Unit conversion

---



# International System of Units (SI)

---

- The symbol SI comes from the initials of the French term: *Systeme International d'Unites* which means international unit system.
- This system consists of seven base units: metre, kilogram, second, ampere, kelvin, candela and mole.

Quantity	Name	Symbol
length	metre	m
mass	kilogram	kg
time	second	s
electric current	ampere	A
thermodynamic temperature	kelvin	K
luminous intensity	candela	cd
amount of substance	mole	mol

# Your turn....

---

- Define the following SI unit prefixes, in words, as a number, and in exponential notation:
  - a) kilo
  - b) centi
  - c) mega
  - d) deci

# Answers

---

1.	kilo	one thousand	1 000	$10^3$
2.	centi	one hundredth	0.01	$10^{-2}$
3.	mega	one million	1 000 000	$10^6$
4.	deci	one tenth	0.1	$10^{-1}$



# Unit conversion

---

## Example problem:

- Convert 32centimetres to metres.
- There are 100cm in a metre so our solution map

is  $\frac{1m}{100cm}$

- The working is as follows:

$$32cm \times \frac{1m}{100cm} = 0.32m$$

# Unit conversion

---

## Example problem:

- Convert 2 kilometres (km) into centimetres (cm).
- **Sort:** we know there are 1000 metres in one km, and 100cm in one metre.
- **Strategise:** So our maps could be  $\frac{1000m}{1km}$  and  $\frac{100cm}{1m}$
- **Solve:**  $2km \times \frac{1000m}{1km} \times \frac{100cm}{1m} = x \text{ cm}$
- $2\cancel{km} \times \frac{1000\cancel{m}}{1\cancel{km}} \times \frac{100cm}{1\cancel{m}} = 2 \times 1000 \times 100 \text{ cm} \therefore 2km = 200,000cm$
- **Check:** is there 200,000cm in a kilometre? Yes that seems sensible.

# Your turn ....

---

- Convert the following
  - Using this information:  
 $1 \text{ m}^2 = 10\,000 \text{ cm}^2 = 1\,000\,000 \text{ mm}^2$   
Convert  $1.5 \text{ m}^2$  into  $\text{mm}^2$
- a) 285m into kilometres
- b) 96cm into kilometres

# Answers

---

a.  $0.285\text{km}$

b.  $0.00096\text{km}$  or  $9.6\text{km} \times 10^{-4}$

c.  $1500000\text{mm}^2$  or  $1.5\text{mm}^2 \times 10^6$

# Rates

---

- **A rate is a numerical comparison between two different kinds of quantities.**
- A rate must have units
  - quantity *per* quantity
  - Km *per* hour
  - Food prices: \$ *per* weight
  - Wages: \$ *per* hour
- Rates can be displayed on a graph



## Example: Nurses need to calculate IV rates: drops per minute (dpm)

- Some information is required first:
- The total volume to be given (often written on a prescription in mLs).
- The time over which the volume is to be given (often in minutes)
- The drop factor (determined by the administration set). This means how many drops per mL, which are commonly 15, 20 or 60 drops/mL
- $$\frac{\text{total volume to be given (in mLs)}}{\text{time (in minutes)}} \times \frac{\text{drop factor}}{1} = \text{drops per minute}$$
- To generalise: what we are doing is dividing two variables,  $\frac{x}{y}$  then we multiply that by the constant, which is the drop factor, to get  $k$  (in this case dpm); therefore,  $\frac{x}{y} \times \frac{20}{1} = k$

## EXAMPLE PROBLEM:

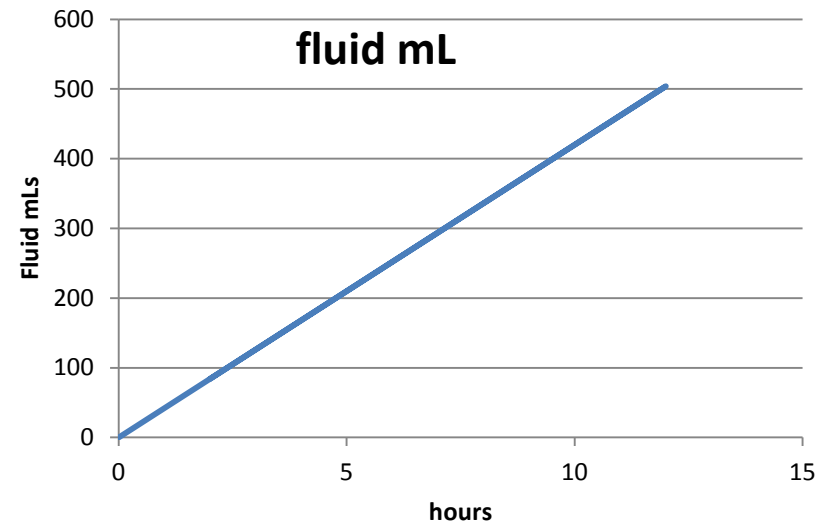
- **What is the IV rate for 1500mLs to be given over 10 hours with a drop factor of 20?**
- $\frac{1500\text{mLs}}{10\text{hrs}} \times \frac{20}{1} = k \text{ dpm}$
- Because we are looking for drops per minute we convert the hours to minutes ( $10 \times 60 = 600\text{mins}$ )
- $\frac{1500\text{mLs}}{600\text{mins}} \times \frac{20}{1} = 50\text{dpm}$

Challenge yourself and construct a linear graph

- A rate that is constant is related to a linear graph. The line that passes through the origin has a *gradient* which we call the *rise* and *run*, written as *rise: run* and more

commonly as  $\frac{\textit{rise}}{\textit{run}}$

- For this graph  $\frac{420}{10}$
- A positive gradient of 42





# Your turn...

---

1. A patient is prescribed 150mg of soluble aspirin. We only have 300mg tablets on hand. How many tablets should be given?
2. A solution contains fluoxetine 20mg/5mL. How many milligrams of fluoxetine are in 40mL of solution?
3. A stock has the strength of 5000units per mL. What volume must be drawn up into an injection to give 6500 units?
4. An intravenous line has been inserted in a patient. Fluid is being delivered at a rate of 42mL/h. How much fluid will the patient receive in
  - 2 hours?
  - 8 hours?
  - 12 hours?

# Answers

---

1.  $\frac{1}{2}$  tablet
2. 160 mg
3. 1.3
4. How much fluid will the patient receive in
  - a) 2 hours? 84mL
  - b) 8 hours? 336mL
  - c) 12 hours? 504mL

# Ratios and Unit Conversions

---

Reflect on the learning intentions ....

- **Ratios**
  - Description
  - Proportional reasoning
  - Golden Ratio
  - Fibonacci sequence
- **Unit Conversions**
  - Description
  - Strategy: sort > strategise > solve > check
- **Rate**
  - Description

# Useful references

---

Ratio: <http://www.mathsisfun.com/numbers/ratio.html>

Golden ratio: [http://math2033.uark.edu/wiki/index.php/Golden\\_ratio](http://math2033.uark.edu/wiki/index.php/Golden_ratio)

Direct Proportion: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/factsheet/ma19rati-l1-f-understanding-direct-proportion>

Nursing Calculations:

- <http://nursing.flinders.edu.au/students/studyaids/drugcalculations/>
- [https://www.dlsweb.rmit.edu.au/lsu/content/c\\_set/nursing/nursingcalculations.html](https://www.dlsweb.rmit.edu.au/lsu/content/c_set/nursing/nursingcalculations.html)
- [https://www.dlsweb.rmit.edu.au/lsu/content/c\\_set/nursing/nursingcalculations.html](https://www.dlsweb.rmit.edu.au/lsu/content/c_set/nursing/nursingcalculations.html)