

DIVIDING DECIMALS

Begin dividing decimals the same way you would divide whole numbers.

Example:

1st
Step

$$\begin{array}{r} 1.5 \overline{) 6} \end{array}$$

divisor ← dividend

2nd
Step

$$1.5 \times 10 = 15$$

power of ten

Write the divisor as a whole number. Do this by multiplying the divisor by a power of 10 large enough to make it a whole number.

3rd
Step

$$6 \times 10 = 60$$

power of ten

Then multiply the dividend by the same power of 10.

It becomes

$$\begin{array}{r} 15 \overline{) 60} \\ \underline{60} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

4th
Step

$$15 \overline{) 4.} \quad \begin{array}{l} \leftarrow \text{Align decimal points} \\ \text{Now divide.} \end{array}$$

Another Example:

$$.036 \overline{) 7.2}$$

$$.036 \times 1000 = 36$$

$$7.2 \times 1000 = 7,200$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 200. \\ 36 \overline{) 7200} \\ \underline{7200} \\ 0 \end{array}$$