

Decimals: Addition and Subtraction

Adding Decimals:

When adding decimals, ALIGN the decimal points! Add just as you would add whole numbers. The decimal point of the sum should align with the decimal point of the addends.

Example: (fill in the missing 0 if you desire)

$$\begin{array}{r} 493.7 \\ 39 \\ + 14.4 \\ \hline 547.1 \end{array}$$

TRY:

$$\begin{array}{r} 73.02 \\ 3.3 \\ + 76.8 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

TRY:

Add 32.1, 3.67, 5, and 6.32.

Subtracting Decimals:

When subtracting decimals, ALIGN the decimal points! Add zeros to the right of any number to right align all the digits. Subtract as you would with whole numbers. The decimal point of the difference should align with the decimal point of the number being subtracted.

Example:

$$\begin{array}{r} 39.0 \\ - 14.4 \\ \hline 24.6 \end{array}$$

TRY:

$$\begin{array}{r} 53.38 \\ - 6.884 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

TRY:

Subtract 3.67 from 32.1

When adding or subtracting negative decimals, follow the rules for working with integers.

Example:

Subtract 5.29 from -7.13 Set up: $-7.13 - 5.29$ rewrite: $-7.13 + -5.29$ (now add these) = -12.42

Subtract -3.25 from -6.4 Set up: $-6.40 - (-3.25)$ rewrite: $-6.40 + 3.25$ (take the difference) = -3.15

TRY:

Subtract 7.89 from -8.14

Subtract -6.3 from -9.36