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3.8 Dividing with Decimal Divisors

You can not divide by a fraction! When the divisor is a decimal, it must be changed into a whole number. Simply use the powers of 10 to change the divisor to a whole number. Then multiply the dividend by the **same power of 10** to keep the problem balanced.

$$6.496 \div 0.32 =$$

$$0.32 * 100 = 32$$

Step 1 – Use **the powers of 10** to change the divisor into a whole number.

6.496 * 100 = 649.6 **Step 2** – Multiply the dividend by the **same power of 10**.

$$6496 \div 32 =$$

Step 3 – Divide Normally

$$4 \div 0.08$$

$$72.5 \div 0.2$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
362.5 \\
2|725.0 \\
\underline{6} \\
12 \\
\underline{12} \\
5 \\
\underline{4} \\
10 \\
\underline{10}
\end{array}$$

Notice that I added a 0 to find the quotient.

Practice rewriting the division problem without a decimal in the divisor.

Rewrite each division problem without a decimal in the divisor, then divide.