

DECIMAL OPERATIONS REFERENCE

Grade 5 Mathematics

The Golden Rule: Line Up the Decimals

- Line up the decimal points vertically.
- Fill in empty spots with "placeholder" zeros.
- Bring the decimal point straight down into your answer.
- Add or Subtract as you would with whole numbers.

Addition Example

$$\begin{array}{r} 12.45 \\ + 03.70 \\ \hline 16.15 \end{array}$$

**Added a placeholder zero to 3.7*

Subtraction Example

$$\begin{array}{r} 08.20 \\ - 04.56 \\ \hline 03.64 \end{array}$$

**Borrow across the decimal point if needed.*

Quick Tips

Whole Numbers: The decimal is always at the end (e.g., 5 = 5.0)

Place Value: Tenths, Hundredths, Thousandths

Decimal Addition and Subtraction Study Guide – Student Resources