

MULTIPLYING DECIMALS STUDY GUIDE

Unlike addition and subtraction, aligning decimal points are not needed; instead, the rule only applies in the end, when the answer is found. The rule states that the decimal point is moved, backwards starting from the last number of the answer, as many times as there are numbers after the decimal points from the numbers that are being multiplied. For example, if 5.4 is multiplied by 0.23, then you will need to move the decimal point three times (because 4 in 5.4 and 23 in 0.23 are after decimal points), starting from the last number of the answer.

Example

$$\begin{array}{r} 1.32 \\ \times 0.42 \\ \hline 264 \\ + 528 \\ \hline 0.5544 \end{array}$$

Note: since there were 4 numbers in total after the decimal points, move the decimal point 4 times starting from the last number of the answer