

Lesson 8: Percent Error Problems

Classwork

Example 1: How Far Off

Find the absolute error for the following problems. Explain what the absolute error means in context.

- a. Taylor's Measurement 1
- b. Connor's Measurement 1
- c. Jordan's Measurement 2

Example 2: How Right is Wrong?

- a. Find the percent error for Taylor's Measurement 1. What does this mean?

- b. From Example 1, part (b), find the percent error for Connor's Measurement 1. What does this mean?
- c. From Example 1, part (c), find the percent error for Jordan's Measurement 2. What does it mean?
- d. What is the purpose of finding percent error?

Exercises 1–3

Calculate the percent error for Problems 1–3. Leave your final answer in fraction form, if necessary.

1. A realtor expected 18 people to show up for an open house, but 25 attended.
2. In science class, Mrs. Moore's students were directed to weigh a 300 gram mass on the balance scale. Tina weighed the object and reported 328 grams.

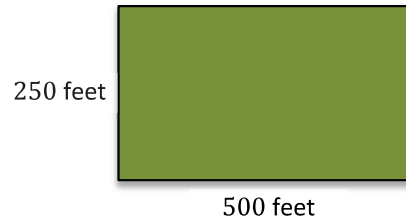
3. Darwin's coach recorded that he had bowled 250 points out of 300 in a bowling tournament. However, the official scoreboard showed that Darwin actually bowled 225 points out of 300.

Example 3: Estimating Percent Error

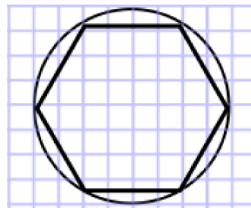
The attendance at a musical event was counted several times. All counts were between 573 and 589. If the actual attendance number is between 573 and 589, inclusive, what is the most the percent error could be? Explain your answer.

Problem Set

- The odometer in Mr. Washington's car does not work correctly. The odometer recorded 13.2 miles for his last trip to the hardware store, but he knows the distance traveled is 15 miles. What is the percent error? Use a calculator and the percent error formula to help find the answer. Show your steps.
- The actual length of a soccer field is 500 feet. A measuring instrument shows the length to be 493 feet. The actual width of the field is 250 feet, but the recorded width is 246.5 feet. Answer the following questions based on this information. Round all decimals to the nearest tenth.
 - Find the percent error for the length of the soccer field.
 - Find the percent error of the area of the soccer field.
 - Explain why the values from parts (a) and (b) are different.

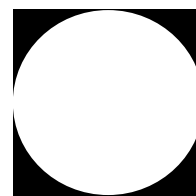


- Kayla's class went on a field trip to an aquarium. One tank had 30 clown fish. She miscounted the total number of clown fish in the tank and recorded it as 24 fish. What is Kayla's percent error?
- Sid used geometry software to draw a circle of radius 4 units on a grid. He estimated the area of the circle by counting the squares that were mostly inside the circle and got an answer of 52 square units.



- Is his estimate too large or too small?
 - Find the percent error in Sid's estimation to the nearest hundredth using the π key on your calculator.
- The exact value for the density of aluminum is 2.699 g/cm^3 . Working in the science lab at school, Joseph finds the density of a piece of aluminum to be 2.75 g/cm^3 . What is Joseph's percent error? (Round to the nearest hundredths.)
 - The world's largest marathon, The New York City Marathon, is held on the first Sunday in November each year. It is estimated that anywhere between 2 million and 2.5 million spectators will line the streets to cheer on Marathon runners. At most, what is the percent error?

7. A circle is inscribed inside a square, which has a side length of 12.6 cm. Jared estimates the area of the circle to be about 80% of the area of the square and comes up with an estimate of 127 cm^2 .
- Find the absolute error from Jared's estimate to two decimal places.
 - Find the percent error of Jared's estimate to two decimal places.
 - Do you think Jared's estimate was reasonable?
 - Would this method of computing the area of a circle always be too large?



12.6 cm

8. In a school library, 52% of the books are paperback. If there are 2,658 books in the library, how many of them are not paperback to the nearest whole number?
9. Shaniqua has 25% less money than her older sister Jennifer. If Shaniqua has \$180, how much money does Jennifer have?
10. An item that was selling for \$1,102 is reduced to \$806. To the nearest whole, what is the percent decrease?
11. If 60 calories from fat is 75% of the total number of calories in a bag of chips, find the total number of calories in the bag of chips.