

How to Write Numbers II

SUMMARISING PERCENTAGES

The table (at the end) gives a way of summarising percentages.

Sometimes a precise percentage is needed (like 65.9 per cent): sometimes saying “2 out of 3” is near enough, and is generally easier to read and recall.

Three kinds of summary have been used:

- 1 in N
because it's easy enough to compare (for example) 1 in 4 with 1 in 9.
- N in 10
because it's easy enough to compare (for example) 3 in 10 with 7 in 10.
- N-1 in N
because it's not too difficult to compare (for example) 2 out of 3 with 19 out of 20.

Mixing other formats could make the proportions difficult to compare.

Which is bigger: 4 in 7 or 5 in 9?

The exception is a set of two or more summaries, together in a group (which are not compared with another group), which are of the form x in N , y in N , z in N , ...

It doesn't matter if x , y , and z are different, they are still easy to compare.

For example:

1 in 7, 2 in 7, 4 in 7;

or 2 in 12, 3 in 12, 8 in 12, 9 in 12

(easier to compare than 1 in 6, 1 in 4, 2 in 3, 3 in 4).

To find a percentage summary in the table on the next page: look for the smallest percentage (in the percentage column) which is greater than or equal to the percentage you want to summarise.

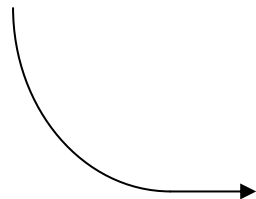
Use the summary next to it.

For example, the summary of 18.9 per cent is “nearly 1 in 5 or a fifth”

because it's next to 19.2 per cent

which is the smallest number (in the percentage column) bigger than 18.9 .

18.9%



15.3%	1 in 7
18.1%	1 in 6
19.2%	nearly 1 in 5 or a fifth
21.7%	1 in 5 or a fifth

percentage	summary	percentage	summary
1.0%	1 in 100	56.7%	nearly 6 out of 10
1.1%	1 in 90	62.2%	6 out of 10
1.3%	1 in 80	63.3%	just over 6 out of 10
1.5%	1 in 70	64.5%	nearly 2 out of 3 or two-thirds
1.8%	1 in 60	68.4%	2 out of 3 or two-thirds
2.2%	1 in 50	71.7%	7 out of 10
2.6%	1 in 40	72.5%	just over 7 out of 10
3.0%	1 in 35	73.3%	nearly 3 out of 4 or three-quarters
3.6%	1 in 30	76.7%	3 out of 4 or three-quarters
4.4%	1 in 25	77.5%	just over 3 out of 4 or three-quarters
5.1%	1 in 20	78.3%	nearly 8 out of 10
5.4%	1 in 19	81.7%	8 out of 10
5.7%	1 in 18	84.5%	5 out of 6
6.0%	1 in 17	86.6%	6 out of 7
6.4%	1 in 16	88.2%	7 out of 8
6.8%	1 in 15	89.4%	8 out of 9
7.4%	1 in 14	90.4%	9 out of 10
7.9%	1 in 13	⇓ for the following	
8.6%	1 in 12	⇓ sometimes it's better to use the percentage,	
9.5%	1 in 11	⇓ sometimes the summary	
10.5%	1 in 10 or a tenth	91.3%	10 out of 11
11.7%	1 in 9	92.0%	11 out of 12
13.3%	1 in 8	92.6%	12 out of 13
15.3%	1 in 7	93.1%	13 out of 14
18.1%	1 in 6	93.5%	14 out of 15
19.2%	nearly 1 in 5 or a fifth	93.9%	15 out of 16
21.7%	1 in 5 or a fifth	94.3%	16 out of 17
22.5%	just over 1 in 5 or a fifth	94.6%	17 out of 18
23.3%	nearly 1 in 4 or a quarter	94.9%	18 out of 19
26.7%	1 in 4 or a quarter	95.1%	19 out of 20
27.5%	just over 1 in 4 or a quarter	96.1%	24 out of 25
28.3%	nearly 3 out of 10	96.7%	29 out of 30
31.7%	3 out of 10	97.2%	34 out of 35
35.5%	1 in 3 or a third	97.5%	39 out of 40
36.7%	just over 1 in 3 or a third	97.8%	44 out of 45
37.8%	nearly 4 out of 10	98.0%	49 out of 50
43.3%	4 out of 10	98.3%	59 out of 60
45.0%	just over 4 out of 10	98.6%	69 out of 70
46.7%	nearly 1 in 2 or a half	98.8%	79 out of 80
53.3%	1 in 2 or a half	98.9%	89 out of 90
55.0%	just over 1 in 2 or a half	99.0%	99 out of 100
		99-100%	nearly all
