

## Math Live – *Multiplication and Division of Decimals*: Teacher Notes

**Grade:** 6    **Strand:** Number    **Outcome:** 8

### **Common mistakes students make:**

The most common mistakes students make with multiplication and division of decimals is with basic facts. Ensure that students' basic facts and operations are correct by having them record each step. When multiplying, students often put the decimal in the wrong place. Have students do the equation as if it were whole numbers and then put the decimal in as the last step. Students often show confusion when having to divide zeros. Remind students that the zero acts as a placeholder and is not to be forgotten.

### **Ideas for extension:**

Use money with students as it acts as both a manipulative and a real life example.

### **Literature links:**

Juster, *The Phantom Tollbooth* - There are many wonderful mathematical ideas and references throughout this classic book. There are many situations that refer to decimal numbers on which extensions and activities can be based.

Daily newspapers - There are references throughout the paper to decimal numbers and percents. Have the students explore these references and discuss their significance and meaning in context.

### **Assessment ideas:**

Have students write out explanations and draw pictures to support their answers. Focus assessment on the students reasoning and justification rather than the number of correct answers for a better view of student understanding.