

5.3 Writing Proportions

One way to write a proportion is to use a table.

Ex: Write 4 different proportions that are modeled by this table.

	Last Month	This Month
Purchase	2 ringtones	3 ringtones
Total Cost	6 dollars	x dollars

Use Columns

$$\frac{2}{6} = \frac{3}{x}$$

$$\frac{6}{2} = \frac{x}{3}$$

Use Rows

$$\frac{2}{3} = \frac{6}{x}$$

$$\frac{3}{2} = \frac{x}{6}$$

Ex: A chef increases the amounts of ingredients in the old Black Bean Soup recipe to make a proportional recipe. The new recipe has 6 cups of black beans. Write a proportion that gives the number x of tomatoes in the new recipe.

Black Bean Soup

1.5 cups black beans

0.5 cup salsa

2 cups water

1 tomato

2 teaspoons seasoning

	Original Recipe	New Recipe
Black Beans	1.5 cups	6 cups
Tomatoes	1 tomato	x tomatoes

$$\frac{1.5}{1} = \frac{6}{x}$$

Ex: What are 2 different ways to solve this proportion: $\frac{3}{2} = \frac{x}{8}$

$$\frac{3}{2} = \frac{x}{8}$$

(Red arrows indicate multiplying both sides by 4)

$$x = 3(4)$$

$$x = 12$$

$$\left(\frac{8}{1}\right) \frac{3}{2} = \frac{x}{8} \left(\frac{8}{1}\right)$$

$$12 = x$$

$$x = 12$$

← same! →

Try These:

(1) Using the Black Bean Soup recipe, write a proportion to find the amount of water needed for the new recipe.

$$\frac{1.5}{2} = \frac{6}{y}$$

Solve the proportions.

$$(2) \frac{5}{8} = \frac{20}{d}$$

$$d = 32$$

$$(3) \frac{7}{z} = \frac{14}{10}$$

$$z = 5$$

$$(4) \frac{21}{24} = \frac{x}{8}$$

$$x = 7$$

(5) A school has 950 students. The ratio of female students to all students is $\frac{48}{95}$. Write and solve a proportion to find the number f of students who are female.

$$\frac{48}{95} = \frac{f}{950}$$

480 female students