

Writing the notation for dollars and cents

introduction

1 Dollars before the dot, cents after — and cents always get two digits

Show a whole dollar amount, \$1. The dollar sign goes before the number.

"One dollar. The dollar sign goes in front of the amount: dollar sign, one."

Show an amount under a dollar, 70 cents. The cents sign goes after the number, and there is no dollar sign.

"Seventy cents. This time the letter c goes after the number, and there is no dollar sign."

Show a mixed amount, \$2.50. Introduce the notation: dollars before the dot, cents after.

"Two dollars and fifty cents. Dollars go before the dot, cents go after: dollar sign, two, dot, five zero."

Show the tricky case: \$6 and 5 cents. Ask where the 5 goes.

"Six dollars and five cents. Where does the five go — straight after the dot, or in the second spot?"

Show why it must go in the second spot: the first spot after the dot is worth ten cents each, so it needs a zero there.

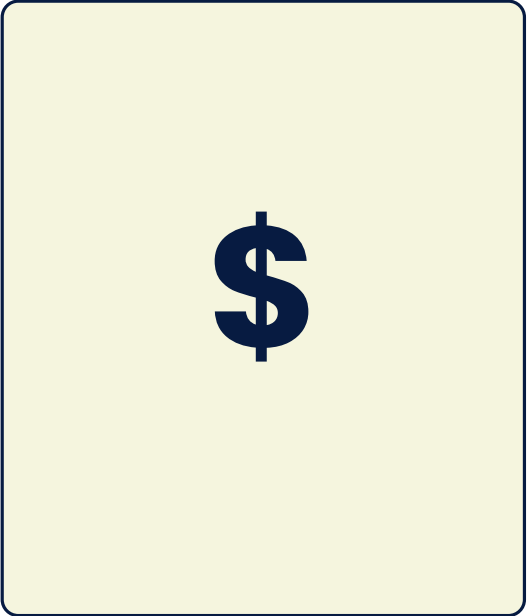
"The spot right after the dot is worth ten cents each. There are no ten-cent amounts here, so that spot gets a zero, and the five goes in the last spot: six dollars and five cents is dollar sign, six, dot, zero five."

Show a common mistake: writing \$6.5 for six dollars and five cents. Check it: what does \$6.5 actually mean?

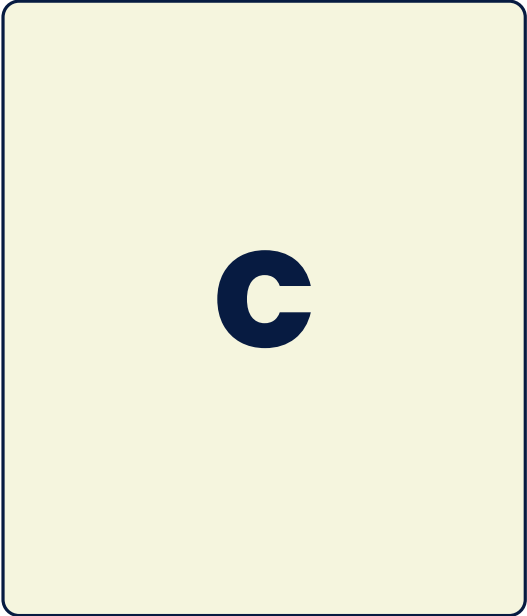
"I wrote six dollars and five cents as dollar sign, six, dot, five. But check what that actually says — six dollars and fifty cents. The five needs a zero in front of it to sit in the right spot: six dollars and five cents is dollar sign, six, dot, zero five."

Notation cards — demonstration

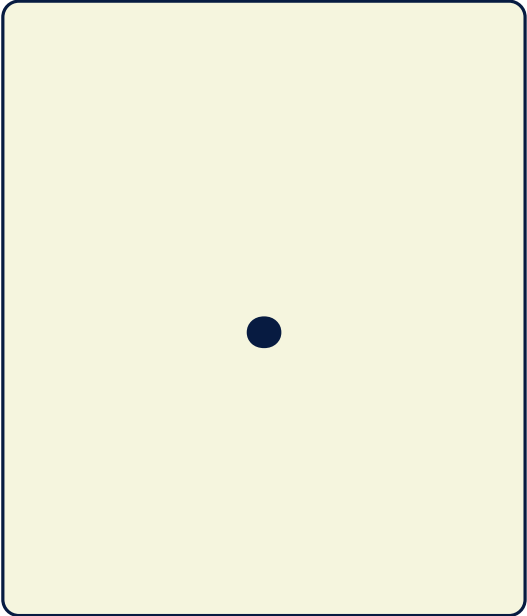
Symbol cards



\$



c



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Digit cards (extra 0, 1 and 5 — most common in coin amounts)

0

0

0

0

0

1

1

1

1

1

5

5

5

5

5

2

2

3

3

4

4

6

6

7

7

8

8

9

9

Blank placeholder cards

