

At some point in the discussion ask students:

- *What does the decimal point actually do?*
[The decimal point separates the whole number part from the fraction or decimal part. To decide where it goes we really only have to use our existing knowledge and concentrate on what is the most likely whole number part.]

Follow up

There are many possible ways to continue with this lesson depending on the existing knowledge, skills and interests of the class. Either go straight on to exploring the use and meaning of decimals further in the '*Exploring Decimals*' activities or capitalise on students' interest during discussion to explore more metric measurements, starting from their personal references or benchmarks. [See '*Matching with Metrics*'.]

Sample only
Print not available

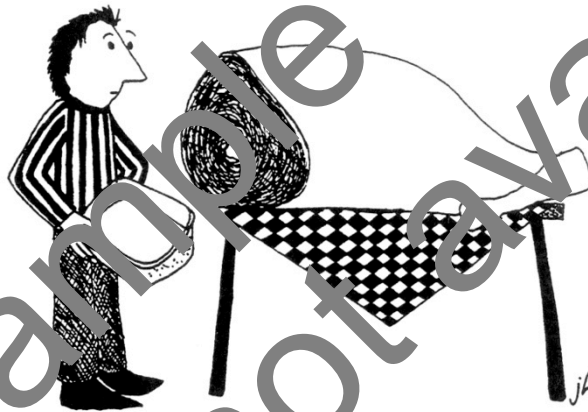


A woman **163 metres** tall gave birth to a baby weighing **32 kilograms** yesterday.

Before she went into the local hospital, **25 kilometres** away (10 minutes' drive), she bought a leg of lamb weighing **25 kg** for \$ **3320** and told her husband to cook it at **1800°C** for **25 hours**.

She also asked him to buy some petrol for their **12 litre** car, as the price had gone down to **1645 cents per litre**.

Later she asked him to bring her a **15 litre** bottle of mineral water because she did not like the water in the hospital.



It was one of those days

Bill, who was **192 metres** high, was excited about picking up his bright new red car with its **19 litre** engine.



The first problem was the weather. It was a hot day. Bill, all hot and sweaty, got to the car dealer and handed over his cheque for **\$2199900**. Then he started the short, ten minute drive home, **70 km** away.

Bill tried to tune his new radio into **FOX 101.5 FM** but found he could only get AM stations. He heard the temperature was **31.7°C**.

Just then the car spluttered to a stop – it was out of petrol.

Bill was embarrassed to be pushed into his local service station by the small **525 kg** woman, who was the only person to stop and help him. After quickly thanking her, he filled the car right up with **65.8 litres** of petrol at **1523 cents** per litre and angrily paid **\$10018**.

To cool down Bill bought a **125 litre** bottle of Coke.

