

Using and Understanding Percentages: How the Media uses the Word “Percent”

Presented by

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Abstract: “Nasdaq down 1.5%,” “15% of 37 million Americans...” and “As a percentage of war fatalities, civilians deaths...in Korea were reckoned at 70 percent” are all examples from recent news articles that show how the media employs percentages in articles. Readers may not be able to distinguish among all of the possible uses of the word “percent.” They may, therefore, misinterpret the meaning of the values in context of the article. In this lesson, students will learn how to successfully decipher the possible ways they will come across “percent” in the media. Students will learn about the slight differences in terminology and how to recognize which type of percent change is used. They will not only successfully perform the calculations required but also interpret them correctly, both from individual problems and within a context.

“Mr. Jansen is a candidate for an open position in the department”