

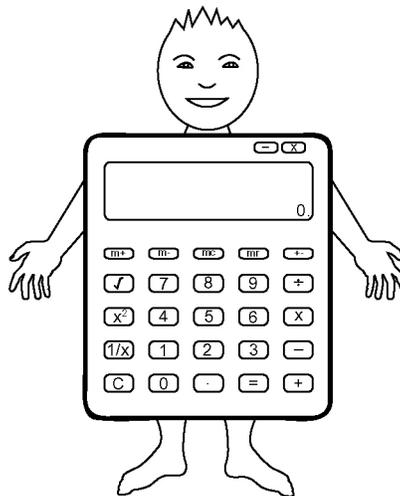
## Become a Human Calculator

### Materials

- 10 blank slips of paper
- empty bag or envelope

Being able to do some math in your head can be very useful in everyday life. For example, your teacher tells you that students who received less than 60% on their vocabulary quiz should stay after school to get extra help. Your mark on the quiz was  $\frac{6}{9}$ .

Do you stay after school?



Here is your chance to become a human calculator! Develop your mental math skills with fractions.

- With a classmate, draw a table with three headings: Fraction, Percent, and Decimal. Under the Fraction heading, include all proper fractions with denominators from 1 to 10. Record the percent equivalent and decimal equivalent for each fraction.
- Look at the fractions with the same denominators and note patterns in their percent and decimal equivalents. Record the patterns you discover.
- Cut out ten slips of paper and number them 1 to 10. Put them in a bag. Without looking, remove two slips of paper to form a fraction. Use the smaller number as the numerator and the larger number as the denominator. For example, if you remove 7 and 10, the fraction is  $\frac{7}{10}$ .
- Using the patterns you discovered, determine the percent equivalent and decimal equivalent of each fraction. Have your partner use the table to check your responses and keep track of your successes.
- Switch roles with your partner.
- Which fractions gave you the most difficulty? Why? Discuss with your partner.