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Level 6 – 26th February 2024

Decimal point 150 years older than thought

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

A new discovery has excited mathematicians around the globe. Recently-unearthed documents show a decimal point in the records of a merchant named Giovanni Bianchini, who lived in Venice in the 1440s. Historians have hailed the find as being significant, as it means the decimal point is 150 years older than was previously thought. Bianchini was a keen astronomer. He made many notations about his observances of the heavens. He also provided Venetians with horoscopes based on astrological calculations of the alignment of stars and planets. Mathematician Dr Glen Van Brummelen noticed the use of a decimal point in one of Bianchini's treatises between 1441 and 1450.

Decimal points are such an integral part of life today that it seems they would have been used for thousands of years. Historians say some versions of decimals have existed for over 1,000 years. Records show a form of the mathematical dot being used in the Islamic world in the 900s. It is likely that Bianchini travelled to the Middle East and was influenced by scholars there who were key in forging many mathematical concepts. Other historical evidence shows intellectuals using a form of the point in China in the 1200s. Before the recent discovery, the earliest known definitive use of the decimal point was in 1593. Then, German mathematician Christopher Clavius used a system of decimals in his study of astronomy.

Sources: <https://phys.org/news/2024-02-decimal-centuries-older-historians-thought.html>
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/history-of-math-shaken-up-as-fundamental-point-150-years-older-than-thought/ar-BB1iFI1b>
<https://www.livescience.com/physics-mathematics/mathematics/worlds-oldest-known-decimal-point-discovered-in-merchants-notes-from-1440s-italy>

WARM-UPS

1. DECIMAL POINTS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about decimal points. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

discovery / mathematician / documents / merchant / decimal point / horoscope / stars
life today / historians / the Islamic world / the Middle East / intellectuals / astronomy

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. IMPORTANT: Students A **strongly** believe maths is the most important subject we can study; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. MATHEMATICS: What do you know about these areas of mathematics? Why are they important? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	Importance
Arithmetic		
Geometry		
Algebra		
Probability		
Trigonometry		
Calculus		

5. MATHS: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "maths". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. SCHOOL SUBJECTS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best school subjects at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Maths
- Art
- History
- Literature
- English
- Music
- I.T.
- Cooking

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. unearthed | a. Someone who studies stars and planets. |
| 2. hailed | b. Found something hidden that wasn't known before, like digging up a treasure. |
| 3. keen | c. Really interested in something or someone. |
| 4. astronomer | d. A prediction about your future based on when you were born. |
| 5. the heavens | e. Things being lined up together, like planets in a row. |
| 6. horoscope | f. Praised someone or something a lot. |
| 7. alignment | g. Another way to say "the sky," where the stars and clouds are. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 8. integral | h. Creating something strong, enduring, or successful. |
| 9. version | i. Of a conclusion or agreement done or reached decisively and with authority. |
| 10. scholar | j. Things that show something is true. |
| 11. forging | k. Someone who studies a lot and knows a lot about something. |
| 12. concept | l. An idea or way of thinking. |
| 13. evidence | m. Necessary to make a whole complete; essential or fundamental. |
| 14. definitive | n. A particular form of something differing in certain respects from an earlier form or other forms of the same type of thing. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. Maths teachers worldwide are excited about a new decimal point. **T / F**
2. The oldest known decimal point was used in Venice in the 1440s. **T / F**
3. A merchant from Venice wanted to go to heaven. **T / F**
4. The merchant used the decimal point for his astronomy studies. **T / F**
5. Different forms of the decimal point existed more than 1,000 years ago. **T / F**
6. One form of the decimal point was used in the Middle East in the 900s. **T / F**
7. Another form of the decimal point was used in China in the 1100s. **T / F**
8. The second-earliest known use of the decimal point is from 1593. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. discovery | a. applauded |
| 2. unearthed | b. studies |
| 3. hailed | c. notions |
| 4. the heavens | d. uncovered |
| 5. treatises | e. essential |
| 6. integral | f. authoritative |
| 7. versions | g. find |
| 8. forging | h. space |
| 9. concepts | i. advancing |
| 10. definitive | j. variations |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. A new discovery has excited mathematicians | a. and planets |
| 2. Recently-unearthed | b. heavens |
| 3. his observances of the | c. evidence |
| 4. horoscopes based on astrological | d. use of the decimal point |
| 5. the alignment of stars | e. around the globe |
| 6. Decimal points are such an integral | f. concepts |
| 7. influenced by | g. calculations |
| 8. key in forging many mathematical | h. part of life today |
| 9. historical | i. scholars |
| 10. the earliest known definitive | j. documents |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

A new discovery has excited mathematicians around the (1) _____. Recently-unearthed documents show a decimal point in the records of a (2) _____ named Giovanni Bianchini, who lived in Venice in the 1440s. Historians have (3) _____ the find as being significant, as it means the decimal point is 150 years older than was (4) _____ thought. Bianchini was a keen astronomer. He made many notations about his observances of the (5) _____. He also provided Venetians with (6) _____ based on astrological calculations of the (7) _____ of stars and planets. Mathematician Dr Glen Van Brummelen noticed the use of a decimal point in one of Bianchini's (8) _____ between 1441 and 1450.

hailed
heavens
alignment
globe
treatises
previously
merchant
horoscopes

Decimal points are such an (9) _____ part of life today that it seems they would have been used for thousands of years. Historians say some (10) _____ of decimals have existed for over 1,000 years. Records show a (11) _____ of the mathematical dot being used in the Islamic world in the 900s. It is (12) _____ that Bianchini travelled to the Middle East and was influenced by scholars there who were key in (13) _____ many mathematical concepts. Other historical (14) _____ shows intellectuals using a form of the point in China in the 1200s. Before the recent discovery, the earliest known (15) _____ use of the decimal point was in 1593. Then, German mathematician Christopher Clavius used a system of decimals in his study of (16) _____.

form
forging
astronomy
integral
definitive
likely
versions
evidence

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

- 1) A new discovery has excited mathematicians _____
 - a. around the global
 - b. around the globule
 - c. around the globe
 - d. around the globes
- 2) Recently-unearthed documents show a decimal point in the records _____
 - a. of a merchandise
 - b. of a merchants
 - c. of a merch chant
 - d. of a merchant
- 3) Historians have hailed the find _____
 - a. as being significant
 - b. as being significance
 - c. as being signify can't
 - d. as being significantly
- 4) He made many notations about his observances _____
 - a. of the heaven
 - b. of the heathens
 - c. of the heavens
 - d. of the heavenly
- 5) Dr Glen Van Brummelen noticed the use of a decimal point in one _____
 - a. of Bianchini's treatises
 - b. of Bianchini's treaties
 - c. of Bianchini's treats
 - d. of Bianchini's trestles
- 6) Decimal points are such _____
 - a. an integer part
 - b. an inter grail part
 - c. an in tailgate part
 - d. an integral part
- 7) Historians say some versions of _____
 - a. decimals have exited
 - b. decimals have exalted
 - c. decimals have existed
 - d. decimals have exist it
- 8) It is likely that Bianchini travelled to the Middle East and was _____
 - a. influenced by scholarly
 - b. influenced by collars
 - c. influenced by schoolers
 - d. influenced by scholars
- 9) Before the recent discovery, the earliest _____
 - a. known definition use
 - b. known definitive use
 - c. known definitively use
 - d. known define it use
- 10) Christopher Clavius used a system of decimals in his _____
 - a. study of astronomical
 - b. study of gastronomy
 - c. study of astronomy
 - d. study of gastronomies

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

A new (1) _____ mathematicians around the globe. Recently-unearthed documents show a decimal point in the records of a merchant named Giovanni Bianchini, who lived in Venice in the 1440s. Historians have hailed the find (2) _____, as it means the decimal point is 150 years older than was previously thought. Bianchini was a keen astronomer. He (3) _____ about his observances of the heavens. He also provided Venetians (4) _____ on astrological calculations of the (5) _____ and planets. Mathematician Dr Glen Van Brummelen (6) _____ of a decimal point in one of Bianchini's treatises between 1441 and 1450.

Decimal points are such an (7) _____ life today that it seems they would have been used for thousands of years. Historians say (8) _____ decimals have existed for over 1,000 years. Records show a form of the mathematical dot being used in the Islamic world in the 900s. It is likely that Bianchini travelled to the Middle East and was influenced by scholars there who were (9) _____ many mathematical concepts. Other (10) _____ intellectuals using a form of the point in China in the 1200s. Before the recent discovery, the earliest (11) _____ of the decimal point was in 1593. Then, German mathematician Christopher Clavius used a system of decimals in his (12) _____.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

1. Where has a new discovery excited mathematicians?
2. In which city did the merchant Giovanni Bianchini live?
3. What was Giovanni Bianchini keen on?
4. What did Giovanni Bianchini provide people with?
5. Between which years did Giovanni Bianchini use the decimal points?
6. What does the article say is an integral part of life today?
7. For how long have some versions of the decimal point existed?
8. When was a form of the decimal point used in the Islamic world?
9. Where might Giovanni Bianchini have travelled to?
10. When is the second-earliest known use of the decimal point?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

- 1) Where has a new discovery excited mathematicians?
 - a) in maths departments
 - b) in universities
 - c) online
 - d) around the globe
- 2) In which city did the merchant Giovanni Bianchini live?
 - a) Vienna
 - b) Venice
 - c) London
 - d) Paris
- 3) What was Giovanni Bianchini keen on?
 - a) numbers
 - b) algebra
 - c) astronomy
 - d) telescopes
- 4) What did Giovanni Bianchini provide people with?
 - a) horoscopes
 - b) hope
 - c) business ideas
 - d) maths lessons
- 5) Between which years did Giovanni Bianchini use the decimal points?
 - a) 1440 and 1450
 - b) 1441 and 1451
 - c) 1441 and 1450
 - d) 1442 and 1450
- 6) What does the article say is an integral part of life today?
 - a) maths
 - b) decimal points
 - c) plus signs
 - d) algebra
- 7) For how long have some versions of the decimal point existed?
 - a) less than 1,000 years ago
 - b) around 1,000 years ago
 - c) exactly 1,000 years ago
 - d) more than 1,000 years
- 8) When was a form of the decimal point used in the Islamic world?
 - a) in the 900s
 - b) in the 1100s
 - c) in the 770s
 - d) in the 600s
- 9) Where might Giovanni Bianchini have travelled to?
 - a) China
 - b) Africa
 - c) the Middle East
 - d) India
- 10) When is the second-earliest known use of the decimal point?
 - a) in 1539
 - b) in 1593
 - c) in 1359
 - d) in 1953

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

Role A – Maths

You think maths is the best school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): art, English or cooking.

Role B – Art

You think art is the best school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): maths, English or cooking.

Role C – English

You think English is the best school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): art, maths or cooking.

Role D – Cooking

You think cooking is the best school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): art, English or maths.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'decimal' and 'point'.

decimal	point

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• globe• records• find• heavens• stars• noticed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• life• versions• 900s• key• 1200s• system
--	---

DECIMAL POINTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

Write five GOOD questions about decimal points in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

DECIMAL POINTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'decimal'?
3. How useful is the decimal point?
4. Are you surprised that the decimal point is so new?
5. 'Maths' is British English; 'math' is American English. Which is best?
6. How interested are you in astrology?
7. How useful is being good at maths?
8. Which is more important, astrology or astronomy?
9. What do you think of horoscopes?
10. What do you know about the stars and planets?

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DECIMAL POINTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'point'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What would life be like without a decimal point?
15. How important is astronomy?
16. How often do you use decimal points?
17. How important are mathematicians?
18. What do you know about maths and the Islamic world?
19. What three adjectives best describe this story, and why?
20. What questions would you like to ask a mathematician?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

A new discovery has (1) _____ mathematicians around the globe. Recently-unearthed documents show a decimal point (2) _____ the records of a merchant named Giovanni Bianchini, who lived in Venice in the 1440s. Historians have (3) _____ the find as being significant, as it means the decimal point is 150 years older than was previously thought. Bianchini was a (4) _____ astronomer. He made many notations about his observances of the heavens. He also provided Venetians with (5) _____ based on astrological calculations of the alignment of stars and planets. Mathematician Dr Glen Van Brummelen noticed the use of a decimal point in one of Bianchini's (6) _____ between 1441 and 1450.

Decimal points are such an (7) _____ part of life today that it seems they would have been used for thousands of years. Historians say some (8) _____ of decimals have existed for over 1,000 years. Records show a form of the mathematical dot (9) _____ used in the Islamic world in the 900s. It is likely that Bianchini travelled to the Middle East and was influenced (10) _____ scholars there who were key in forging many mathematical concepts. Other historical evidence shows intellectuals using a form of the point in China in the 1200s. Before the recent discovery, the earliest known (11) _____ use of the decimal point was in 1593. Then, German mathematician Christopher Clavius used a system of (12) _____ in his study of astronomy.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) excited | (b) exited | (c) exalted | (d) extended |
| 2. | (a) at | (b) of | (c) in | (d) as |
| 3. | (a) failed | (b) foiled | (c) hailed | (d) hurled |
| 4. | (a) dean | (b) wean | (c) been | (d) keen |
| 5. | (a) microscopes | (b) telescopes | (c) horoscopes | (d) gyroscopes |
| 6. | (a) treats | (b) treatises | (c) treaties | (d) trestles |
| 7. | (a) integrity | (b) integral | (c) integer | (d) integrate |
| 8. | (a) aversions | (b) versions | (c) diversions | (d) inversions |
| 9. | (a) been | (b) beginning | (c) being | (d) beginnings |
| 10. | (a) on | (b) in | (c) of | (d) by |
| 11. | (a) definition | (b) definitely | (c) definitive | (d) define |
| 12. | (a) decals | (b) decimal | (c) decimalize | (d) decimals |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

Paragraph 1

1. a rmhceant named Giovanni Bianchini
2. Bianchini was a keen stoaonrmer
3. He also provided Venetians with orshocopes
4. based on taolgosiracl calculations
5. the iamngelnt of stars and planets
6. in one of Bianchini's ratiteses

Paragraph 2

7. such an etignarl part of life
8. decimals have sxiteed for over 1,000 years
9. influenced by ahcolssr
10. key in fingrog many mathematical concepts
11. Other historical cvneieed
12. the earliest known inifeetidv use

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- (**1**) A new discovery has excited mathematicians around the globe. Recently-unearthed
- () China in the 1200s. Before the recent discovery, the earliest known definitive use of the decimal point was in
- () 1593. Then, German mathematician Christopher Clavius used a system of decimals in his study of astronomy.
- () of the mathematical dot being used in the Islamic world in the 900s. It is likely that Bianchini travelled
- () notations about his observances of the heavens. He also provided Venetians with horoscopes based
- () to the Middle East and was influenced by scholars there who were key in forging many mathematical
- () Dr Glen Van Brummelen noticed the use of a decimal point in one of Bianchini's treatises between 1441 and 1450.
- () lived in Venice in the 1440s. Historians have hailed the find as being significant, as it means the decimal point is
- () for thousands of years. Historians say some versions of decimals have existed for over 1,000 years. Records show a form
- () 150 years older than was previously thought. Bianchini was a keen astronomer. He made many
- () on astrological calculations of the alignment of stars and planets. Mathematician
- () concepts. Other historical evidence shows intellectuals using a form of the point in
- () Decimal points are such an integral part of life today that it seems they would have been used
- () documents show a decimal point in the records of a merchant named Giovanni Bianchini, who

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

1. the around discovery A excited mathematicians has globe .
2. decimal the point a in Documents show records .
3. significant . find Historians being have as hailed the
4. many observances . about notations He his made
5. alignment . on based Horoscopes astrological calculations the of
6. integral of Decimals such an life . part are
7. Decimals over 1,000 for have existed years .
8. world Islamic the 900s . in in Used the
9. key who Scholars in mathematical concepts . were forging
10. decimal . The use definitive earliest the of known

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

A new *discovery / discover* has excited mathematicians around the globe. Recently-unearthed documents show a decimal point in the *recording / records* of a merchant named Giovanni Bianchini, who lived in Venice *on / in* the 1440s. Historians have *failed / hailed* the find as being significant, as it means the decimal point is 150 years older than was *previously / previous* thought. Bianchini was a keen *astronomist / astronomer*. He made many notations about his observances *off / of* the heavens. He also provided Venetians with horoscopes based *on / at* astrological calculations of the alignment of stars and planets. Mathematician Dr Glen Van Brummelen noticed the use of a decimal point in one of Bianchini's *treats / treatises* from between 1441 *and / to* 1450.

Decimal points are such an *integrity / integral* part of life today that it *seems / seemingly* they would have been used for thousands of years. Historians say some *versions / visions* of decimals have existed for *above / over* 1,000 years. Records show a form of the mathematical dot *being / been* used in the Islamic world in the 900s. It is *likely / likeable* that Bianchini travelled to the Middle East and was influenced by scholars there who were *quay / key* in forging many mathematical concepts. Other *historically / historical* evidence shows intellectuals using a form of the point in China in the 1200s. Before the recent discovery, the earliest known *definition / definitive* use of the decimal point was in 1593. Then, German mathematician Christopher Clavius used a *system / systemic* of decimals in his study of astronomy.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

_ n_w d_sc_v_ry h_s _xc_t_d m_th_m_t_c__ns _r__nd
th_ gl_b_. R_c_ntly-_n__rth_d d_c_m_nts sh_w _
d_c_m_l p__nt _n th_ r_c_rds _f _ m_rch_nt n_m_d
G__v_nn_ B__nch_n_, wh_ l_v_d _n V_n_c_ _n th_
1440s. H_st_r__ns h_v_ h__l_d th_ f_nd _s b__ng
s_gn_f_c_nt, _s _t m__ns th_ d_c_m_l p__nt _s 150
y__rs _ld_r th_n w_s pr_v__sly th__ght. B__nch_n_
w_s _ k__n _str_n_m_r. H_ m_d_ m_ny n_t_t__ns
_b__t h_s _bs_rv_nc_s _f th_ h__v_ns. H_ _ls_
pr_v_d_d V_n_t__ns w_th h_r_sc_p_s b_s_d _n
_str_l_g_c_l c_lc_l_t__ns _f th_ _l_gnm_nt _f st_rs _nd
pl_n_ts. M_th_m_t_c__n Dr Gl_n V_n Br_mm_l_n n_t_c_d
th_ _s_ _f _ d_c_m_l p__nt _n _n_ _f B__nch_n_'s
tr__t_s_s b_tw__n 1441 _nd 1450.

D_c_m_l p__nts _r_ s_ch _n _nt_gr_l p_rt _f l_f_
t_d_y th_t _t s__ms th_y w__ld h_v_ b__n _s_d fr
th__s_nds _f y__rs. H_st_r__ns s_y s_m_ v_rs__ns _f
d_c_m_ls h_v_ _x_st_d fr _v_r 1,000 y__rs. R_c_rds
sh_w _ f_rm _f th_ m_th_m_t_c_l d_t b__ng _s_d _n
th_ _sl_m_c w_rld _n th_ 900s. _t _s l_k_ly th_t
B__nch_n_ tr_v_ll_d t_ th_ M_ddl_ __st _nd w_s
_nfl__nc_d by sch_l_rs th_r_ wh_ w_r_ k_y _n f_rg_ng
m_ny m_th_m_t_c_l c_nc_p_t_s. _th_r h_st_r_c_l _v_d_nc_
sh_ws _nt_ll_ct__ls _s_ng _ f_rm _f th_ p__nt _n
Ch_n_ _n th_ 1200s. B_f_r_ th_ r_c_nt d_sc_v_ry, th_
__rl__st kn_wn d_f_n_t_v_ _s_ _f th_ d_c_m_l p__nt
w_s _n 1593. Th_n, G_rm_n m_th_m_t_c__n Chr_st_ph_r
Cl_v__s _s_d _ syst_m _f d_c_m_ls _n h_s st_dy _f
_str_n_my.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

a new discovery has excited mathematicians around the globe recently unearthed documents show a decimal point in the records of a merchant named giovanni bianchini who lived in venice in the 1440s historians have hailed the find as being significant as it means the decimal point is 150 years older than was previously thought bianchini was a keen astronomer he made many notations about his observances of the heavens he also provided venetians with horoscopes based on astrological calculations of the alignment of stars and planets mathematician dr glen van brummelen noticed the use of a decimal point in one of bianchinis treatises between 1441 and 1450

decimal points are such an integral part of life today that it seems they would have been used for thousands of years historians say some versions of decimals have existed for over 1000 years records show a form of the mathematical dot being used in the islamic world in the 900s it is likely that bianchini travelled to the middle east and was influenced by scholars there who were key in forging many mathematical concepts other historical evidence shows intellectuals using a form of the point in china in the 1200s before the recent discovery the earliest known definitive use of the decimal point was in 1593 then german mathematician christopher clavius used a system of decimals in his study of astronomy

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

A new discovery has excited mathematicians around the globe. Recently unearthed documents show a decimal point in the records of a merchant named Giovanni Bianchini, who lived in Venice in the 1440s. Historians have hailed the find as being significant, as it means the decimal point is 150 years older than was previously thought. Bianchini was a keen astronomer. He made many notations about his observations of the heavens. He also provided Venetians with horoscopes based on astrological calculations of the alignment of stars and planets. Mathematician Dr Glen Van Brummelen noticed the use of a decimal point in one of Bianchini's treatises between 1441 and 1450. Decimal points are such an integral part of life today that it seems they would have been used for thousands of years. Historians say some version of decimals have existed for over 1,000 years. Records show a form of the mathematical dot being used in the Islamic world in the 900s. It is likely that Bianchini travelled to the Middle East and was influenced by scholars there who were key in forging many mathematical concepts. Other historical evidence shows intellectuals using a form of the point in China in the 1200s. Before the recent discovery, the earliest known definitive use of the decimal point was in 1593. Then, German mathematician Christopher Clavius used a system of decimals in his study of astronomy.

FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240226-decimal-point.html>

Write about **decimal points** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. DECIMAL POINTS: Make a poster about decimal points. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. MATHS: Write a magazine article about all of us studying maths at a higher level. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on decimal points. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions of decimal points. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. b 2. f 3. c 4. a 5. g 6. d 7. e
8. m 9. n 10. k 11. h 12. l 13. j 14. i

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F 2 T 3 F 4 T 5 T 6 T 7 F 8 T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. g	2. d	3. a	4. h	5. b
6. e	7. j	8. i	9. c	10. f

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Around the globe
2. Venice
3. Astronomy
4. Horoscopes
5. 1441 and 1450
6. Decimal points
7. More than 1,000 years
8. In the 990s
9. The Middle East
10. In 1593

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. A discovery has excited mathematicians around the globe.
2. Documents show a decimal point in the records.
3. Historians have hailed the find as being significant.
4. He made many notations about his observances.
5. Horoscopes based on astrological calculations of the alignment.
6. Decimals are such an integral part of life.
7. Decimals have existed for over 1,000 years.
8. Used in the Islamic world in the 900s.
9. Scholars who were key in forging mathematical concepts.
10. The earliest known definitive use of the decimal.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. d 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. c 6. b 7. d 8. a 9. c 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)