

# Half a Pizza, Half a Dollar



Figure 1: A friendly cartoon-style scene of two kids sitting on a kitchen counter with a pizza box and coins scattered nearby, a notebook open

Mia and Jordan split a pizza after soccer practice. "I ate half," said Mia. "That's the same as five tenths," said Jordan, holding up his notebook. "Half equals 0.5. Look, it's the same spot on the number line."

Mia counted her allowance. "I have three dollars and fifty cents." Jordan wrote 3.50 on a napkin. "Three and a half dollars. The point separates dollars from cents, just like it separates wholes from parts."

They added Mia's \$3.50 to Jordan's \$2.25. "First estimate," Jordan said. "About six dollars." They lined up the decimal points and added carefully. "Five seventy-five! Close to our guess."

"Fractions, decimals, same numbers," Mia grinned, "just different disguises."

## Words to know

- **decimal number:** A number written with a decimal point, showing wholes and parts, like 3.50.
- **tenths:** The first place after the decimal point, worth one tenth of a whole.
- **equivalent:** Equal in value, even if written differently, like  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 0.5.
- **estimate:** A quick, reasonable guess at an answer before calculating exactly.
- **number line:** A line showing numbers in order, used to compare fractions and decimals.

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