

# *In Search of Fractions*

*In an effort to uncover the real nature of fractions, our reporter has travelled to Fractionville to interview the fraction One Half.*

*Is it true One Half that you are developing an inferiority complex?*  
Certainly not! Where did you get such an idea?

*Because of your size, One Half. You know, being just one half instead of a whole? Tell me this. When you fill a glass with lemonade and drink half of it, is the glass half full or half empty?*



*I think it's both.*  
My point exactly. The glass is both half full and half empty. I make up both parts of the glass. I'm as whole as the glass. In fact, I'm even more than a whole if you count the half glass that you drank.

*Hmm. That seems to make quite a bit of sense.*  
I am a rational number after all!

*Indeed you are. Where else could we find you?*  
I'm in the chair you're sitting on.

*How can that be?*  
One half of the legs of the chair are in the front and half are in the back.

*Or, half the legs are on the left and half are on the right.*  
Now you're catching on. I'm also in every book. Half the pages are even and half are odd.

*You are in two quarters. It's half a dollar.*  
And I'm in a coin toss. Half the time you get heads and half the time you get tails.

*You're in twelve noon. Half the day is gone.*  
And in a fifty percent off sale.



*And in thirty seconds.*  
And in six months.

*And in a friendship.*  
You were saying something about an inferiority complex?

*I think I may be developing one. I never knew I could find you in so many places. Thank you for the interview, One Half.*  
It has been my pleasure.

1. Explain how you can find one half in each of the following:
  - a) fifty percent
  - b) thirty seconds
  - c) six months
  - d) a friendship

2. List and explain three other ways of finding the fraction one half.

- a)
- b)
- c)



# WORK WANTED

Hard working fraction seeks employment.

Can finish a job in half the time.

Will work for half the money.

Pay me half now and half when the job is done.

Don't settle for one or two

when One Half will do!

Call 000.5000 anytime.



5. Study the *Wanted Poster* below.
- a) How much money would you save if you hired One Half for a job that normally takes two days to complete and costs \$360?

- b) What other saving would you have?

- c) Would One Half make more or less money in a month than a regular worker who didn't finish jobs in half the time and charged regular prices? Explain.

- d) Why would they be loitering in discount stores?

6. Design a *Wanted Poster* for your favourite fraction or fractions.

# WANTED



Unit fractions one half, one third and one quarter have escaped from Fractionville. May be disguised as percents or decimals.

Known to offer their services for a fraction of normal cost.

Appear quite rational.

Last seen loitering in discount stores.

3. Study the *Work Wanted Poster*.

- a) How much money would you save if you hired One Half for a job that normally takes two days to complete and costs \$360?

- b) What other saving would you have?

- c) Would One Half make more or less money in a month than a regular worker who didn't finish jobs in half the time and charged regular prices? Explain.

4. Suppose you are designing a *Work Wanted Poster* for the fraction three quarters.

- a) List three statements that you would include in the poster.

- b) Design the poster. Add an appropriate graphic.