Decimals

Introduction of Decimals

The word 'decimal' means 'based on 10'. This word has been derived from the Latin word decimal meaning a tenth part.

The fractional numbers having denominators 10, 100, 1000, etc., are called decimal fractions or decimals.

Some decimal fractions are expressed as given below:

(i) $\frac{4}{10}$ is expressed as 0.4

(ii) $\frac{2}{100}$ is expressed as 0.02

(iii) $3\frac{13}{100}$ is expressed as 3.13

The dot '.'is called the decimal point.

Therefore, decimal fraction consists of two parts i.e., whole number part and decimal part, and they are separated by the decimal point.

Types of Decimals

Like Decimals and Unlike Decimals

Decimals having the same number of decimal places are called like decimals i.e., decimals having the same number of digits on the right of the decimal point are known as like decimals. Otherwise, decimals not having the same number of digits on the right of the decimal point are unlike decimals.

Examples on like and unlike decimals:

- 5.45, 17.04, 272.89, etc. are like decimals as all these decimal numbers are written up to 2 places of decimal.

- 7.5, 23.16, 31.054, etc. are unlike decimals. As in 7.5 has one decimal place. 23.16 has two decimal places. 31.054 has three decimal places.