Eastside Literacy Tutor Support
Handout for Students: **Percent Tricks**

By Sandy Campbell. Adapted from *Passing the GED*, Linda Barnes, ed.

Here's a nice trick to help you do percent problems.

Whenever you have a percent problem,
draw a cross like this:

Portion	Percent
Whole	100

then fill in three of the four squares.
The other blank square will be the number you want to find.

Locate two entries in your cross diagonally placed from each other. Multiply those two numbers together. Take the new number and divide by the leftover number. This is the answer!

Example 1:   What is 20% of 50? First we fill out our cross:

?	20
50	100

The numbers 20 and 50 are located diagonally across from each other. We multiply them together: 20 x 50 = 1000.
Now divide by the leftover number: 1000 ÷ 100 = 10, therefore 20% of 50 is 10.

Example 2:   45 is what percent of 300?   First we fill out our cross:

45	?
300	100

We multiply together: 45 x 100 = 4500
Now divide by the leftover number: 4500 ÷ 300 = 15, therefore 45 is 15% of 300.

Example 3:   60 is 80% of what number? First we fill out our cross:

60	80
?	100

We multiply together: 60 x 100 = 6000
Now divide by the leftover number: 6000 = 75, therefore 60 is 80% of 75.