## Constant of Proportionality Notes

| What is a constant of proportionality? | The constant value of the ratio of two proportional quantities. <br> Also is classified as the unit rate. |
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| How to identify the constant of proportionality? | You can identify the constant of proportionality in tables, graphs, equations and other proportional relationships. <br> *Recall how to compute the unit rate. Use those same strategies to find the constant of proportionality. |
| Example 1: Tables | Analyze the table. <br> What is the cost of 1 pen? <br> *The cost of 1 pen is $\$ 2$. 2 is the constant of proportionality because it is the constant value of the ratio between the number of pens and the cost. <br> *The equation can be written as $C=2 p$, which represents the total cost (C) equals 2 dollars times the number of pens (p) purchased. |
| Example 2: Graphs | Using the graph, determine the constant of proportionality. <br> To determine the constant of proportionality, find the unit rate. To find the unit rate, look where the Length is 1 unit. <br> *4 is the constant of proportionality. If you follow the ratio, the constant is 4 because $1: 4,2: 8,3: 12$, and etc. |
| Example 3: Equations | Since we know that proportional equations contain only multiplication or division, use the coefficient to identify the constant of proportionality. <br> 1. The amount of sales tax paid on an item is proportional to the cost of the item. If the sales tax rate |


|  | is $7 \%$, then the amount of the sales tax $(\mathrm{t})$ is .07 times the cost (c) of the item. The equation is $t=.07 \mathrm{c}$ can be used to determine the amount of sales tax. What is the constant of proportionality? <br> *The constant is .07 or $7 \%$ since that is the coefficient of the equation. |
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| Example 4: Verbal Descriptions | In probability, the chance to roll a 1 when rolling a number cube is $\frac{1}{6}$. In the long run, the number of times you get a 1 is proportional to the number of times you roll. If you roll 30 times, you would expect to roll a 1 five times. The constant is $\frac{1}{6}$ because it is the constant value of the ratio when comparing the number how many 1 s are on a number cube (1:6). |

