

A dollar and a penny

- A student makes the following argument:
"I can prove a dollar equals a penny.
Since a dime (10 cents) is one-tenth
of a dollar, I can write:

$$10\text{¢} = 0.1 \$$$

- Square both sides of the equation.
Since squares of equals are equal,

$$100 \text{ ¢} = 0.01 \$.$$

- Since $100 \text{ ¢} = 1 \$$ and $0.01 \$ = 1 \text{ ¢}$
it follows that $1\$ = 1 \text{ ¢}.$
- What's wrong with the argument?



Stuck?
Try it with
10 cm = 0.1 m



A student measures distance x to be 5 meters and area A to be 25 ft². Discuss with neighbors which of the following are true; then vote for all that are true.



1. $[x^2] = [A]$
2. $[5x] = A$
3. $x^2 = [A]$
4. $x^2 = A$
5. None of the above

As part of an exam a few years ago, a student wrote the following derivation of a final result. Without knowing the problem, but knowing the dimensions of each quantity shown along the bottom can you determine:



Is equation D correct?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Can't tell

$$A. \quad Mgh = \frac{1}{2}Mv^2 + \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2$$

$$B. \quad Mgh = \frac{1}{2}Mv^2 + \frac{1}{2}(MR^2)\omega^2$$

$$C. \quad Mgh = \frac{1}{2}Mv^2 + \frac{1}{2}(MR^2)\left(\frac{v^2}{R}\right)^2$$

$$D. \quad gh = \frac{1}{2}v^2 + \frac{1}{2}v^4$$

Given that equation D is NOT correct, can you tell which is the first line that has an error?

$$[M]=M \quad [g]=L/T^2 \quad [h]=L \quad [\omega]=/T \quad [v]=L/T \quad [R]=L \quad [I]=ML^2$$