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Solving problem with the percentage bar.

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Summary: At the end of primary school all children more or less know what a percentage is, but yet they often struggle with percentage problems. This article describes a study in which students of 13 and 14 years old were given a written test with percentage problems and a week later were interviewed about the way they solved some of these problems. In a teaching experiment the students were then taught the use of the percentage bar. Although the teaching experiment was very short – just one lesson – the results confirm that the percentage bar is a powerful model that deserves a central place in the teaching of percentages.

Classification: F83

Keywords: percentage; model; design research