

## Mistake Hunter Answer Key

1. Multiplied before finding the value inside the parentheses. Correct answer: 21
2. Subtracted before multiplying. Correct answer: 4.8
3. Computed the division incorrectly.  $8.4 \div 2.1 = 4$ , then add 1.5. Correct answer: 5.5
4. Added before dividing instead of following the order of operations. Correct answer: 8.1
5. Multiplied incorrectly.  $(7.5 - 2.5) = 5$ , and  $5 \times 1.2 = 6$
6. Added correctly but divided incorrectly.  $12.6 \div 3 = 4.2$
7. Divided incorrectly.  $(5.4 + 1.6) = 7$ , and  $7 \div 2 = 3.5$
8. Added before multiplying.  $3.5 \times 2 = 7$ , then  $7 + 4.5 = 11.5$

## Teacher's Guide

- Review the order of operations before students begin analyzing the errors.
- Encourage students to explain the mistake using complete mathematical sentences instead of only giving the correct answer.
- Pair students to compare their explanations and discuss why the incorrect work seems reasonable at first glance.
- Support students by having them underline parentheses and circle multiplication or division before solving.
- Invite volunteers to present one corrected problem and explain the error to the class.
- Extend the activity by asking students to create their own incorrect decimal expression for a partner to analyze and correct.