

# Rational number

A *rational number* is one which can be written as  $\frac{m}{n}$  where  $m$  and  $n$  are integers with  $n \neq 0$ . That is, it can be written as a *ratio*, hence the name.

For example,  $-17$ ,  $\frac{2}{5}$  and  $-\frac{1013}{12}$  are rational, but none of  $\pi$ ,  $e$  or  $\sqrt{2}$  is.

We use the symbol  $\mathbb{Q}$  for the [set](#) of rational numbers.