

Growth and Decay Problems

Remember for increases the multiplier is 1.?, if it's a decrease the multiplier is 0.?

Example 1. If property is increasing by 7% per year, what is the multiplier?

$$100\% + 7\% = 107\%$$

$$107\% = \frac{107}{100} = 1.07$$

$$\therefore \text{The multiplier} = 1.07$$

Example 2. What is the first term in the geometric progression 3, 6, 12, 24 which will exceed one million?

$$a = 3, r = 2 \quad u_n > 1000000 \quad n = n$$

$$\text{using } ar^{n-1} > 1000000$$

$$3 \times 2^{n-1} > 1000000$$

$$2^{n-1} > \frac{1000000}{3}$$

To solve unknown powers we use logs

$$\log 2^{n-1} > \log \frac{1000000}{3}$$

$$(n-1) \log 2 > \log \frac{1000000}{3}$$

$$n-1 > \frac{\log 333333.33}{\log 2}$$

$$n-1 > 18.35 \text{ (2dp)}$$

$$n > 19.35$$

$$\therefore n = 20$$

The 20th term is the first term to exceed 1 million