

Significant Figure Rules-Why is the zero so confusing???

Rule 1-The easy one....

All non-zero numbers are significant regardless of where the decimal point is located.

Rule 2-The zeroes between numbers....this one isn't bad

Zeroes located between two non-zero digits are significant.

Rule 3-Zeroes at the beginning.....oh boy

Zeroes at the beginning of a number only serve as place holders and are not significant.

Rule 4-Zeroes at the end-decimal or no decimal????

Zeroes at the end of a number containing a decimal point are significant.

But zeroes at the end of a number that does not contain a decimal are not significant.

Rule 5-Unit Conversions.....hmmm

Some numbers, such as those obtained by counting objects and those that are part of a definition, are exact and exempt from the significant figure rules.