

THE SOLUTION TO A DILEMMA

The Equity Number

While sitting in class, bored to death, Buck imagines himself in solitary confinement, and his friend Ranbir is doing hard time. In Ranbir's case it is because he declared a certain number to be a **prime number**, which can only be divided by itself or by the number 1.

As this is determined to be unfair, the poor kid is tasked with moving all the numbers on the left side of the decimal point ('the dot') over to the right side in order to make things equal. Ranbir attempts to explain how this is impossible, because everything to the left of the decimal becomes greater in value, while everything to the right becomes a fraction, not even equal to 1.

Instead, he suggests a different approach, and so the Equity Number is born.

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1, of course is equal to 1. The .9999999 is almost equal to 1 but not quite, so the *carat* underneath it (the 'pointy-uppy') is placed just a little to the left of the decimal, acting as a fulcrum to balance it out.