CAMPBELL RIVER School District 72

Adding and Subtracting fractions and mixed numbers!

numerator → $\frac{1}{4}$ ← denominator
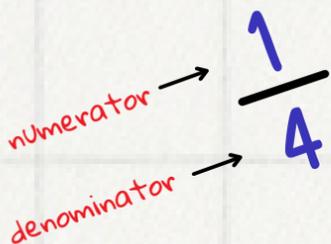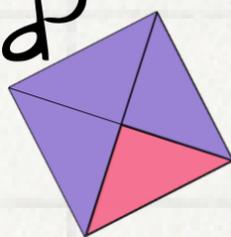
Adding and Subtracting Fractions

- To add or subtract fractions accurately the fractions must have a common denominator.
- A common denominator is a number that is a multiple of each of the given denominators. for example 12 is a common multiple for these fractions: 1/3; 2/4 and 7/12.
- Use the steps for making equivalent fractions, that have the same denominator.
- Once the denominators are the same, add/subtract the numerators (to get the total parts) and write the result as your numberator in the answer. The denominator does not change.

Add to find the sum:

$$\frac{2}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$$

Tip: Do not add or subtract the denominator - remember it represents how many parts make one whole.
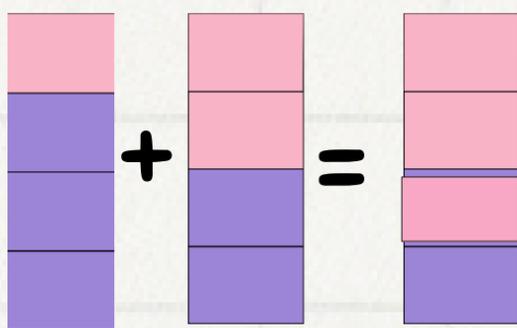
Subtract to find the difference:

$$\frac{4}{5} - \frac{1}{3} =$$

Remember to rewrite with common denominator before adding/subtracting.

[multiply top and bottom by 3 to make the denominator 15 – the common multiple of 5 and 3]

[4 x 3 =12
5 x 3 = 15]

[multiply top and bottom by 5 to make the denominator 15 – the common multiple of 5 and 3]

[1 x 5 =5
3 x 5 = 15]

What is the smallest common multiple of five and three?

$$\frac{12}{15} - \frac{5}{15} = \frac{7}{15}$$

Mixed Numbers - Add to find the sum:

$$2\frac{4}{6} + 1\frac{1}{3}$$

[make equivalent fractions/ common denominator]

[4÷2
6÷2] $2\frac{2}{3} + 1\frac{1}{3}$

[next add the whole numbers; and separately add the fractions to find your total]

$$2\frac{2}{3} + 1\frac{1}{3} = 3\frac{3}{3} = 4$$

Mixed Numbers - Subtract to find the difference:

$$3\frac{3}{4} - 1\frac{1}{3} =$$ [make equivalent fractions/ common denominator] $3\frac{9}{12} - 1\frac{4}{12} =$

[next subtract the whole numbers; and separately subtractthe fractions to find the total]

$$3\frac{9}{12} - 1\frac{4}{12} = 3\frac{5}{12}$$