

Boost Free Lessons - Year 7 Maths

Lesson 5: Adding and Subtracting Fractions

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Worked Example 1

Evaluate $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{4}$

1. The denominators are different, so find a common denominator. The lowest common multiple of 5 and 4 is 20.
2. Convert the first fraction: $\frac{2}{5} = \frac{8}{20}$ (multiply top and bottom by 4).
3. Convert the second: $\frac{1}{4} = \frac{5}{20}$ (multiply top and bottom by 5).
4. Add the numerators only: $\frac{8}{20} + \frac{5}{20} = \frac{13}{20}$.

$$= \frac{13}{20}$$

Worked Example 2

Evaluate $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{1}{3}$

1. The lowest common multiple of 6 and 3 is 6, so only the second fraction needs changing.
2. $\frac{1}{3} = \frac{2}{6}$.
3. Subtract the numerators: $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{2}{6} = \frac{3}{6}$.
4. Always simplify: $\frac{3}{6}$ divides by 3 on top and bottom.

$$= \frac{1}{2}$$

Remember: Only the numerators are added or subtracted. Once the denominators match, they stay the same. Always simplify your answer.



Question 1: Evaluate the following, giving each answer in simplest form.

1. $\frac{1}{7} + \frac{3}{7}$

2. $\frac{5}{9} - \frac{2}{9}$

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

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

5. $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{8}$

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

7. $\frac{4}{5} - \frac{1}{2}$

8. $\frac{2}{7} + \frac{1}{2}$

9. $\frac{5}{8} - \frac{1}{3}$

10. $\frac{3}{10} + \frac{2}{5}$



Question 2: Evaluate the following, giving each answer in simplest form.

1. $\frac{5}{6} + \frac{3}{4}$

2. $\frac{7}{8} - \frac{1}{2}$

3. $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{3}{5}$

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

5. $\frac{9}{10} - \frac{2}{5}$

6. $\frac{3}{4} + \frac{5}{6}$

7. $\frac{11}{12} - \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{3}$

8. $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{7}{10}$



Question 3: Answer the following questions.

1. Leo ate $\frac{1}{4}$ of a pizza and Sara ate $\frac{3}{8}$ of the same pizza. How much did they eat altogether?
2. A bottle holds $\frac{3}{4}$ of a litre. Mia drinks $\frac{1}{3}$ of a litre. How much is left?
3. A recipe needs $\frac{2}{3}$ of a cup of flour and $\frac{1}{6}$ of a cup of sugar. What is the total amount of dry ingredients?
4. Jay ran $\frac{7}{10}$ of a kilometre and then walked $\frac{1}{2}$ of a kilometre. How far did he travel in total?
5. A water tank is $\frac{5}{6}$ full. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the tank is then used. What fraction is left?





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Answers : Adding and Subtracting Fractions**Question 1**

1. $\frac{4}{7}$

2. $\frac{1}{3}$

3. $\frac{3}{4}$

4. $\frac{5}{6}$

5. $\frac{5}{8}$

6. $\frac{7}{12}$

7. $\frac{3}{10}$

8. $\frac{11}{14}$

9. $\frac{7}{24}$

10. $\frac{7}{10}$

Question 2

1. $1\frac{7}{12}$

2. $\frac{3}{8}$

3. $1\frac{4}{15}$

4. 1

5. $\frac{1}{2}$

6. $1\frac{7}{12}$

7. $\frac{1}{3}$

8. $1\frac{1}{10}$

Question 3

1. $\frac{5}{8}$ of the pizza

2. $\frac{5}{12}$ of a litre

3. $\frac{5}{6}$ of a cup

4. $1\frac{1}{5}$ km

5. $\frac{7}{12}$ of the tank

