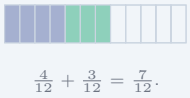
Adding and Subtracting Fractions

Name: _____	Date: _____	Score: _____ / 18

Quick Review and Helpful Hints

To add or subtract fractions with different denominators, first find a common denominator (the least common denominator works best). Rewrite each fraction with that denominator, then add or subtract the numerators and keep the denominator the same. Always simplify your answer.

▷ **Example:** Add $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4}$. **Work:** The least common denominator of 3 and 4 is 12. Rewrite: $\frac{1}{3} = \frac{4}{12}$ and $\frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{12}$. Now add the numerators: $\frac{4}{12} + \frac{3}{12} = \frac{7}{12}$. ★ **Answer:** $\frac{7}{12}$



$\frac{4}{12} + \frac{3}{12} = \frac{7}{12}$.

Practice Problems

Add or subtract. Write each answer in simplest form.

1. $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4}$ _____
2. $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{6}$ _____
3. $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{2}$ _____
4. $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{5}$ _____
5. $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{1}{3}$ _____
6. $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3}$ _____
7. $\frac{7}{8} - \frac{1}{4}$ _____
8. $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{2}$ _____
9. $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{6}$ _____
10. $\frac{1}{6} + \frac{3}{4}$ _____
11. $\frac{5}{8} - \frac{1}{2}$ _____
12. $\frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{4}$ _____
13. $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5}$ _____
14. $\frac{3}{5} + \frac{1}{10}$ _____

Word Problems

15. A recipe needs $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of white sugar and $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of brown sugar. How much sugar in all? _____
16. A board is $\frac{7}{8}$ foot long. If $\frac{1}{4}$ foot is cut off, how much is left? _____
17. Maria walked $\frac{2}{3}$ mile in the morning and $\frac{1}{6}$ mile in the evening. How far did she walk? _____
18. A tank is $\frac{3}{4}$ full. After $\frac{1}{3}$ of the tank is used, what fraction is left? _____

Answer Keys

1. $\frac{3}{4}$	**7.** $\frac{5}{8}$	**13.** $\frac{9}{20}$
2. $\frac{5}{6}$	**8.** $\frac{9}{10}$	**14.** $\frac{7}{10}$
3. $\frac{1}{4}$	**9.** $\frac{7}{12}$	**15.** $\frac{5}{6}$ cup
4. $\frac{11}{15}$	**10.** $\frac{11}{12}$	**16.** $\frac{5}{8}$ ft
5. $\frac{1}{2}$	**11.** $\frac{1}{8}$	**17.** $\frac{5}{6}$ mile
6. $\frac{5}{6}$	**12.** $\frac{5}{12}$	**18.** $\frac{5}{12}$

Step-by-Step Explanations

1. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Find a common denominator for 2 and 4 – that is 4. Rewrite $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{4}$, then add the numerators: $\frac{2}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$. So the final answer is $\frac{3}{4}$.

2. A good way to think about this is: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is The denominators 3 and 6 share the common denominator 6. Change $\frac{2}{3} = \frac{4}{6}$, then add: $\frac{4}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$. So the final answer is $\frac{5}{6}$.

3. Step by step: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Use denominator 4. Rewrite $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{4}$, then subtract the numerators: $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{4}$. So the final answer is $\frac{1}{4}$.

4. Take it one move at a time: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Since 3 and 5 share no factor, the least common denominator is $3 \times 5 = 15$. Rewrite $\frac{1}{3} = \frac{5}{15}$ and $\frac{2}{5} = \frac{6}{15}$, then add: $\frac{5}{15} + \frac{6}{15} = \frac{11}{15}$. So the final answer is $\frac{11}{15}$.

5. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Common denominator 6: change $\frac{1}{3} = \frac{2}{6}$. Subtract: $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{2}{6} = \frac{3}{6}$, which simplifies to $\frac{1}{2}$. So the final answer is $\frac{1}{2}$.

6. A good way to think about this is: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is The LCD of 2 and 3 is 6. Rewrite $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{6}$ and $\frac{1}{3} = \frac{2}{6}$, then add to get $\frac{5}{6}$. So the final answer is $\frac{5}{6}$.

7. Step by step: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Use denominator 8: $\frac{1}{4} = \frac{2}{8}$. Subtract: $\frac{7}{8} - \frac{2}{8} = \frac{5}{8}$. So the final answer is $\frac{5}{8}$.

8. Take it one move at a time: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is The LCD of 5 and 2 is 10. Change $\frac{2}{5} = \frac{4}{10}$ and $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{5}{10}$, then add: $\frac{4}{10} + \frac{5}{10} = \frac{9}{10}$. So the final answer is $\frac{9}{10}$.

9. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is The LCD of 4 and 6 is 12. Rewrite $\frac{3}{4} = \frac{9}{12}$ and $\frac{1}{6} = \frac{2}{12}$, then subtract: $\frac{9}{12} - \frac{2}{12} = \frac{7}{12}$. So the final answer is $\frac{7}{12}$.

10. A good way to think about this is: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Use the LCD 12: $\frac{1}{6} = \frac{2}{12}$ and $\frac{3}{4} = \frac{9}{12}$. Adding gives $\frac{2}{12} + \frac{9}{12} = \frac{11}{12}$. So the final answer is $\frac{11}{12}$.

11. Step by step: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Use denominator 8: $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{4}{8}$. Subtract: $\frac{5}{8} - \frac{4}{8} = \frac{1}{8}$. So the final answer is $\frac{1}{8}$.

12. Take it one move at a time: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is The LCD of 3 and 4 is 12. Change $\frac{2}{3} = \frac{8}{12}$ and $\frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{12}$, then subtract: $\frac{8}{12} - \frac{3}{12} = \frac{5}{12}$. So the final answer is $\frac{5}{12}$.

13. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Since 4 and 5 share no factor, the LCD is 20. Rewrite $\frac{1}{4} = \frac{5}{20}$ and $\frac{1}{5} = \frac{4}{20}$, then add: $\frac{5}{20} + \frac{4}{20} = \frac{9}{20}$. So the final answer is $\frac{9}{20}$.

14. A good way to think about this is: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Use denominator 10: $\frac{3}{5} = \frac{6}{10}$. Add: $\frac{6}{10} + \frac{1}{10} = \frac{7}{10}$. So the final answer is $\frac{7}{10}$.

15. Step by step: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Add the two amounts of sugar. With common denominator 6, $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{6}$ and $\frac{1}{3} = \frac{2}{6}$, so $\frac{3}{6} + \frac{2}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$ cup. So the final answer is $\frac{5}{6}$ cup.

16. Take it one move at a time: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Subtract what is cut off from the length. Using eighths, $\frac{1}{4} = \frac{2}{8}$, so $\frac{7}{8} - \frac{2}{8} = \frac{5}{8}$ foot remains. So the final answer is $\frac{5}{8}$ ft.

17. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Add the morning and evening distances. With sixths, $\frac{2}{3} = \frac{4}{6}$, so $\frac{4}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$ mile in all. So the final answer is $\frac{5}{6}$ mile.

18. A good way to think about this is: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Subtract the part used from $\frac{3}{4}$. The LCD of 4 and 3 is 12: $\frac{3}{4} = \frac{9}{12}$ and $\frac{1}{3} = \frac{4}{12}$, so $\frac{9}{12} - \frac{4}{12} = \frac{5}{12}$ is left. So the final answer is $\frac{5}{12}$.

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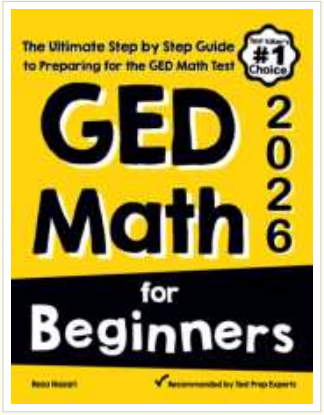

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