

# Finding Common Denominators

Grade 5 Math • Section 4.1

Name: _____	Date: _____	Score: _____ / 14
-------------	-------------	-------------------

**Quick Review and Helpful Hints**

- ✚ **Common denominator:** A shared multiple of two or more denominators. The **least common denominator (LCD)** is the **least common multiple (LCM)** of the denominators.
- ✚ **Finding the LCD:** List multiples of each denominator until you find the smallest one they share. LCD of 4 and 6: multiples of 4: 4, 8, 12, ...; multiples of 6: 6, 12, ... ⇒ LCD = 12.
- 💡 Rewrite each fraction with the LCD as the new denominator.

🔍 **Example:** Find the LCD of  $\frac{2}{3}$  and  $\frac{5}{8}$ , then rewrite both fractions.

✚ Multiples of 3: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24. Multiples of 8: 8, 16, 24. LCD = 24.  $\frac{2}{3} = \frac{16}{24}$  and  $\frac{5}{8} = \frac{15}{24}$ .

💡 **Answer:** LCD = 24;  $\frac{16}{24}$  and  $\frac{15}{24}$

✚ **Practice Problems**

Find the LCD and rewrite each pair of fractions with that denominator.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{6}$ LCD = _____  | 7. $\frac{7}{12}$ and $\frac{5}{8}$ LCD = _____  |
| 2. $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{3}{5}$ LCD = _____  | 8. $\frac{1}{6}$ and $\frac{4}{9}$ LCD = _____   |
| 3. $\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{6}$ LCD = _____  | 9. $\frac{3}{7}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$ LCD = _____   |
| 4. $\frac{5}{12}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ LCD = _____ | 10. $\frac{5}{6}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ LCD = _____  |
| 5. $\frac{2}{9}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ LCD = _____  | 11. $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{8}$ LCD = _____  |
| 6. $\frac{3}{10}$ and $\frac{2}{5}$ LCD = _____ | 12. $\frac{4}{15}$ and $\frac{1}{5}$ LCD = _____ |

✚ **Word Problems**

13. A recipe calls for  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup of flour and  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of sugar. To add these, you need a common denominator. Find the LCD of 3 and 4 and rewrite both fractions. \_\_\_\_\_

14. Marco ran  $\frac{5}{6}$  of a mile and Tina ran  $\frac{7}{10}$  of a mile. Find the LCD so you can compare who ran farther. \_\_\_\_\_



## Answer Keys

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

### Step-by-Step Explanations

1. Start with the main idea. For finding common denominators, list multiples of 4 and 6; the least common multiple is 12. Fractions are easier to combine when the pieces are the same size.

2. Keep the work tidy. For finding common denominators, list multiples of 3 and 5; the least common multiple is 15. Always simplify at the end so the answer is clean and useful.

3. Look at what the numbers mean. For finding common denominators, list multiples of 8 and 6; the least common multiple is 24. For mixed numbers, converting to improper fractions can make the arithmetic calmer.

4. Use the setup first. For finding common denominators, list multiples of 12 and 4; the least common multiple is 12. Fractions are easier to combine when the pieces are the same size.

5. Check the size of the answer. For finding common denominators, list multiples of 9 and 3; the least common multiple is 9. Always simplify at the end so the answer is clean and useful.

6. Match the operation to the words. For finding common denominators, list multiples of 10 and 5; the least common multiple is 10. For mixed numbers, converting to improper fractions can make the arithmetic calmer.

7. Write the important values first. For finding common denominators, list multiples of 12 and 8; the least common multiple is 24. Fractions are easier to combine when the pieces are the same size.

8. Follow the pattern carefully. For finding common denominators, list multiples of 6 and 9; the least common multiple is 18. Always simplify at the end so the answer is clean and useful.

9. Start with the main idea. For finding common denominators, list multiples of 7 and 3; the least common multiple is 21. For mixed numbers, converting to improper fractions can make the arithmetic calmer.

10. Keep the work tidy. For finding common denominators, list multiples of 6 and 4; the least common multiple is 12. Fractions are easier to combine when the pieces are the same size.

11. Look at what the numbers mean. For finding common denominators, list multiples of 2 and 8; the least common multiple is 8. Always simplify at the end so the answer is clean and useful.

12. Use the setup first. For finding common denominators, list multiples of 15 and 5; the least common multiple is 15. For mixed numbers, converting to improper fractions can make the arithmetic calmer.

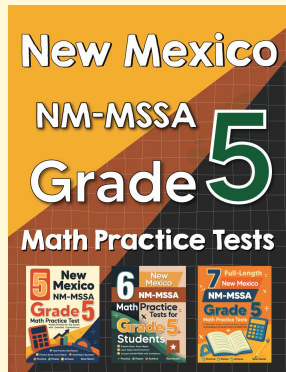
13. Check the size of the answer. For finding common denominators, the LCD of 3 and 4 is 12, so rewrite  $\frac{2}{3} = \frac{8}{12}$  and  $\frac{3}{4} = \frac{9}{12}$ . Fractions are easier to combine when the pieces are the same size.

14. Match the operation to the words. For finding common denominators, the LCD of 6 and 10 is 30; then compare  $\frac{25}{30}$  and  $\frac{21}{30}$ . Always simplify at the end so the answer is clean and useful.



# Want Even More Practice?

Check Out Our Other New Mexico NM-MSSA Test Books!



## New Mexico NM-MSSA Grade 5 Math Preparation Bundle

18 full-length practice tests across three books  
(5 + 6 + 7)

No repeated questions—maximum practice value!



**18 Tests!**  
**3 Books**  
**One Bundle**

**Important:** All our test books contain **unique, completely different tests** from each other! Each book offers fresh practice questions—no repeats!

### 5 Practice Tests

- ✓ 5 complete practice tests with detailed explanations
- ✓ Perfect foundation for NM-MSSA test preparation
- ✓ Builds confidence and test-taking skills
- ✓ High-quality questions aligned with state standards

**Start your practice journey!**

### 6 Practice Tests

- ✓ 6 complete practice tests with detailed explanations
- ✓ **Unique tests**—different from the 5 tests book
- ✓ Perfect for more practice after mastering 5 tests
- ✓ Builds even more confidence and test-taking skills
- ✓ Same high-quality questions aligned with standards

**Take your practice to the next level!**

### 7 Practice Tests

- ✓ 7 complete practice tests for maximum preparation
- ✓ **Unique tests**—different from 5 and 6 tests books
- ✓ The most comprehensive practice for Grade 5
- ✓ Ideal for students aiming for top scores
- ✓ Extensive practice builds mastery and confidence

**Go all the way with comprehensive practice!**