Whole Numbers as Fractions

Explore ideas and representations

Name _____ **Date** _____ **Score** _____ / 6

QUICK REVIEW

All the equal parts of one whole give $\frac{b}{b} = 1$. A whole in fifths has 5 fifths, so $\frac{5}{5} = 1$. Count complete groups of denominator-sized parts. A whole number can also have denominator 1: $6 = \frac{6}{1}$.

Worked example

Write 5 as a fraction with denominator 2.

1. Each whole has 2 parts of size $\frac{1}{2}$.
2. 5 wholes have $5 \times 2 = 10$ parts, so $5 = \frac{10}{2}$.
Answer: $5 = \frac{10}{2}$.

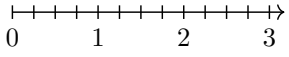
Practice Problems

Show your thinking.

1. Write 1 as a fraction with denominator 4.

2. What whole number equals $\frac{6}{3}$? Show how many complete groups of 3 parts it contains.

3. Mark $\frac{8}{4}$ on this line and label it with its whole-number name.



4. Write 3 as a fraction with denominator 2.

5. Write two fraction names for 1, one with denominator 1 and one with denominator 6.

6. A student says $\frac{2}{6} = 2$. Give the correct numerator for 2 wholes with denominator 6.

Answer Key

1. $1 = \frac{4}{4}$.
2. 2.
3. $\frac{8}{4} = 2$.
4. $3 = \frac{6}{2}$.
5. $\frac{1}{1} = \frac{6}{6} = 1$.
6. $2 = \frac{12}{6}$, not $\frac{2}{6}$.

Step-by-Step Solutions

Follow each calculation, then check your own work.

Problem 1

1. Each whole has 4 parts of size $\frac{1}{4}$.
2. 1 wholes have $1 \times 4 = 4$ parts, so $1 = \frac{4}{4}$.

Problem 2

1. A whole uses 3 parts of size $\frac{1}{3}$.
2. $6 \div 3 = 2$ complete wholes, so $\frac{6}{3} = 2$.

Problem 3

1. 4 small intervals make one whole. 8 small intervals make $8 \div 4 = 2$ wholes.
2. Place the dot at the numbered tick 2, not at tick 8 in whole units.

Problem 4

1. Each whole has 2 parts of size $\frac{1}{2}$.
2. 3 wholes have $3 \times 2 = 6$ parts, so $3 = \frac{6}{2}$.

Problem 5

1. With denominator 1, 1 one-whole pieces give $\frac{1}{1}$.
2. With denominator 6, there are $1 \times 6 = 6$ pieces, giving $\frac{6}{6}$.

Problem 6

1. 2 wholes need 6 pieces each, giving $2 \times 6 = 12$ pieces.
2. Check: $12 \div 6 = 2$. The numerator must be 12, not 2.

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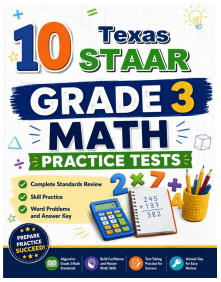

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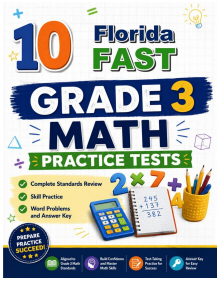

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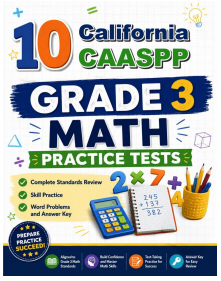

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