Whole Numbers as Fractions

Apply the skill to decisions and designs

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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

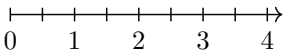
Show your thinking.

1. Each pizza is cut into 6 equal slices. A party uses 3 whole pizzas. How many slices is that? Write the total as a fraction of one pizza.

2. Each pizza is cut into 8 equal slices. A party uses 2 whole pizzas. How many slices is that? Write the total as a fraction of one pizza.

3. Write two fraction names for 4, one with denominator 1 and one with denominator 3.

4. Mark $\frac{6}{2}$ on this line and label it with its whole-number name.



5. Each pizza is cut into 4 equal slices. A party uses 2 whole pizzas. How many slices is that? Write the total as a fraction of one pizza.

6. Complete $\frac{3}{\square} = 1$. How many equal parts are in one whole?

Answer Key

1. 18 slices; $\frac{18}{6} = 3$ pizzas.
2. 16 slices; $\frac{16}{8} = 2$ pizzas.
3. $\frac{4}{1} = \frac{12}{3} = 4$.
4. $\frac{6}{2} = 3$.
5. 8 slices; $\frac{8}{4} = 2$ pizzas.
6. Denominator 3.

Step-by-Step Solutions

Follow each calculation, then check your own work.

Problem 1

1. 3 pizzas contain $3 \times 6 = 18$ slices.
2. Each slice is $\frac{1}{6}$ of a pizza, so the total is $\frac{18}{6} = 3$ pizzas.

Problem 2

1. 2 pizzas contain $2 \times 8 = 16$ slices.
2. Each slice is $\frac{1}{8}$ of a pizza, so the total is $\frac{16}{8} = 2$ pizzas.

Problem 3

1. With denominator 1, 4 one-whole pieces give $\frac{4}{1}$.
2. With denominator 3, there are $4 \times 3 = 12$ pieces, giving $\frac{12}{3}$.

Problem 4

1. 2 small intervals make one whole. 6 small intervals make $6 \div 2 = 3$ wholes.
2. Place the dot at the numbered tick 3, not at tick 6 in whole units.

Problem 5

1. 2 pizzas contain $2 \times 4 = 8$ slices.
2. Each slice is $\frac{1}{4}$ of a pizza, so the total is $\frac{8}{4} = 2$ pizzas.

Problem 6

1. The 3 pieces are divided among 1 wholes: $3 \div 1 = 3$ parts per whole.
2. Check: $\frac{3}{3} = 1$ because $1 \times 3 = 3$.

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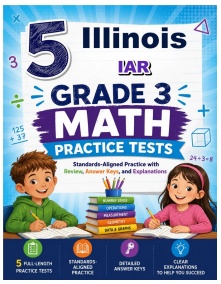

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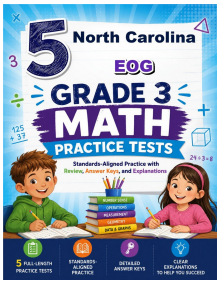

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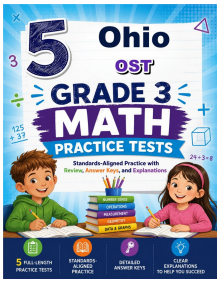

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