Adding and Subtracting Fractions with Like Denominators

Explore ideas and representations

Name _____ **Date** _____ **Score** _____ / 8

QUICK REVIEW

With like denominators, add or subtract only the numerators. $\frac{3}{8} + \frac{2}{8} = \frac{5}{8}$ and $\frac{7}{8} - \frac{3}{8} = \frac{4}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$. The eighth-sized pieces do not change.

Worked example

Find $\frac{2}{12} + \frac{3}{12}$.

1. The pieces are all $\frac{1}{12}$.

2. Combine the counts: $2 + 3 = 5$, so $\frac{2}{12} + \frac{3}{12} = \frac{5}{12}$.

3. Rename if possible: $\frac{5}{12} = \frac{5}{12}$.

Answer: $\frac{5}{12}$.

Practice Problems

Show your thinking.

1. Add $\frac{2}{7} + \frac{3}{7}$.

2. Subtract $\frac{7}{9} - \frac{4}{9}$.

3. Find $\frac{5}{8} + \frac{4}{8}$. Write the sum as a mixed number.

4. Find $\frac{11}{12} - \frac{5}{12}$.

5. Correct $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{5} = \frac{3}{10}$.

6. Cross out 2 shaded eighths and name the amount left.



7. Find a fraction in sixths that makes $\frac{1}{6} + \square = 1$.

8. Explain why $\frac{3}{8} + \frac{5}{8}$ is exactly one whole.

Answer Key

1. $\frac{5}{7}$.
2. $\frac{1}{3}$.
3. $\frac{9}{8} = 1\frac{1}{8}$.
4. $\frac{1}{2}$.
5. $\frac{3}{5}$.
6. $\frac{1}{2}$.
7. $\frac{5}{6}$.
8. $\frac{8}{8} = 1$.

Step-by-Step Solutions

Follow each calculation, then check your own work.

Problem 1

1. The pieces are all $\frac{1}{7}$.
2. Combine the counts: $2 + 3 = 5$, so $\frac{2}{7} + \frac{3}{7} = \frac{5}{7}$.
3. Rename if possible: $\frac{5}{7} = \frac{5}{7}$.

Problem 2

1. The pieces are all $\frac{1}{9}$.
2. Combine the counts: $7 - 4 = 3$, so $\frac{7}{9} - \frac{4}{9} = \frac{3}{9}$.
3. Rename if possible: $\frac{3}{9} = \frac{1}{3}$.

Problem 3

1. The pieces are all $\frac{1}{8}$.
2. Combine the counts: $5 + 4 = 9$, so $\frac{5}{8} + \frac{4}{8} = \frac{9}{8}$.
3. Eight eighths make 1 whole, with 1 eighth left: $\frac{9}{8} = \frac{8}{8} + \frac{1}{8} = 1\frac{1}{8}$.

Problem 4

1. The pieces are all $\frac{1}{12}$.
2. Combine the counts: $11 - 5 = 6$, so $\frac{11}{12} - \frac{5}{12} = \frac{6}{12}$.
3. Rename if possible: $\frac{6}{12} = \frac{1}{2}$.

Problem 5

1. The unit is $\frac{1}{5}$ in both terms.
2. $2 + 1 = 3$ counts the selected fifths.
3. The denominator stays 5: $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{5} = \frac{3}{5}$.

Problem 6

1. The pieces are all $\frac{1}{8}$.
2. Combine the counts: $6 - 2 = 4$, so $\frac{6}{8} - \frac{2}{8} = \frac{4}{8}$.
3. Rename if possible: $\frac{4}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$.

Problem 7

1. One whole is $\frac{6}{6}$.
2. $\frac{6}{6} - \frac{1}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$.
3. $\frac{1}{6} + \frac{5}{6} = \frac{6}{6} = 1$ checks it.

Problem 8

1. The numerator sum is $3 + 5 = 8$.
2. Eight eighth-sized parts fill all 8 equal pieces.
3. Thus $\frac{3}{8} + \frac{5}{8} = \frac{8}{8} = 1$.

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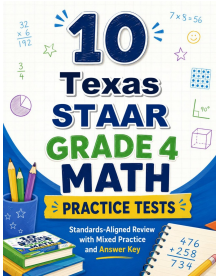

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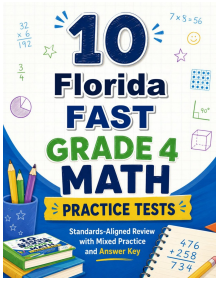

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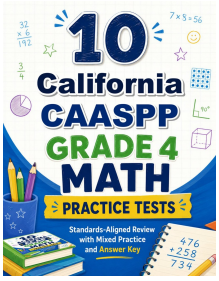

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