Adding and Subtracting Fractions with Like Denominators

Spot mistakes, reason, and work backward

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. Find the missing addend in $\square+\frac{2}{10}=\frac{7}{10}$.

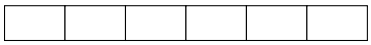
2. How much must be removed from $\frac{8}{11}$ to leave $\frac{3}{11}$?

3. A subtraction leaves $\frac{5}{9}$ after removing $\frac{6}{9}$. Find the starting amount.

4. Complete $\frac{7}{8}+\square=\frac{12}{8}$.

5. A student finds $\frac{9}{10}-\frac{4}{10}=\frac{5}{0}$. Repair the denominator.

6. Shade 3 sixths, then 2 more sixths on the blank bar. Name the combined amount.



7. Which sum is greater: $\frac{2}{9}+\frac{4}{9}$ or $\frac{8}{9}-\frac{3}{9}$? Give the difference.

8. Two equal measuring marks show $\frac{7}{12}$ cup and $\frac{5}{12}$ cup. Find their combined amount.

Answer Key

1. $\frac{1}{2}$.
2. $\frac{5}{11}$.
3. $\frac{11}{9}$.
4. $\frac{5}{8}$.
5. $\frac{5}{10} = \frac{1}{2}$.
6. $\frac{5}{6}$.
7. The first is greater by $\frac{1}{9}$.
8. 1 cup.

Step-by-Step Solutions

Follow each calculation, then check your own work.

Problem 1

1. The pieces are all $\frac{1}{10}$.
2. Combine the counts: $7 - 2 = 5$, so $\frac{7}{10} - \frac{2}{10} = \frac{5}{10}$.
3. Rename if possible: $\frac{5}{10} = \frac{1}{2}$.

Problem 2

1. The pieces are all $\frac{1}{11}$.
2. Combine the counts: $8 - 3 = 5$, so $\frac{8}{11} - \frac{3}{11} = \frac{5}{11}$.
3. Rename if possible: $\frac{5}{11} = \frac{5}{11}$.

Problem 3

1. The pieces are all $\frac{1}{9}$.
2. Combine the counts: $5 + 6 = 11$, so $\frac{5}{9} + \frac{6}{9} = \frac{11}{9}$.
3. Rename if possible: $\frac{11}{9} = 1\frac{2}{9}$.

Problem 4

1. The pieces are all $\frac{1}{8}$.
2. Combine the counts: $12 - 7 = 5$, so $\frac{12}{8} - \frac{7}{8} = \frac{5}{8}$.
3. Rename if possible: $\frac{5}{8} = \frac{5}{8}$.

Problem 5

1. Subtract counts: $9 - 4 = 5$.
2. The surviving pieces are still tenths, so use denominator 10.
3. $\frac{5}{10} + \frac{4}{10} = \frac{9}{10}$ checks the answer.

Problem 6

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

Problem 7

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

Problem 8

1. The pieces are all $\frac{1}{12}$ cup.
2. Combine the counts: $7 + 5 = 12$, so $\frac{7}{12} + \frac{5}{12} = \frac{12}{12}$.
3. Rename if possible: $\frac{12}{12} = 1$.

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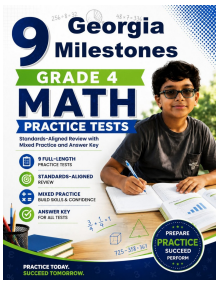

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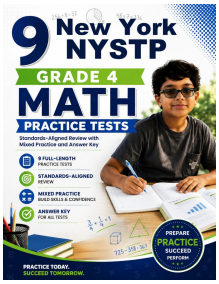

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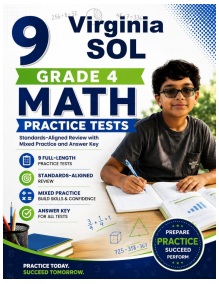

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