

Name _____

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Adding Fractions

When dealing with fractions, there are a few steps that need to take place. First, you need to be aware of some of the terminology used regarding fractions. The number above the line in a fraction is called the numerator. The number below the line in a fraction is called the denominator.

When adding fractions, there are three simple steps to follow:

1. Make sure the denominators are the same.
2. Add the numerators together. Place the answer above the common denominator.
3. Simply the fraction if necessary.

For example:

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} = \underline{\quad}$$

In order to find the answer, you must first find a common denominator. In the example, the common denominator is 4. You would then need to ensure that both denominators are fours. In other words, you would need to change your question to:

$$\frac{2}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \underline{\quad}$$

Two-fourths is the same as one-half, but now both fractions have a common denominator, which means that the two fractions can now be added together. You would solve the problem by adding the numerators together: $2 + 1 = 3$. Your numerator should be 3, and you would place your 3 above the common denominator, which would give you the correct answer: $\frac{3}{4}$.

In the example above, the answer could not be reduced or simplified. Sometimes, you will have to simply your answer. For example:

$$\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{10} = \underline{\quad}$$

In the above problem, you would first need to find your common denominator. What number do 5, 4, and 10 all go into? Each one of those numbers can go into 20. So, your common denominator would be 20. You would then convert your fractions.

$$\frac{2}{5} = \frac{\quad}{20} \quad 5 \text{ goes into } 20 \text{ four times, so you would multiply your original numerator by } 4.$$

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Adding Fractions (Cont'd)

This would tell you that:

$$\frac{2}{5} = \frac{8}{20}$$

You would do the same for your other given fractions, which would turn your problem into:

$$\frac{8}{20} + \frac{5}{20} + \frac{2}{20} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

You would then add your numerators and place them above your common denominator.

$$\frac{8}{20} + \frac{5}{20} + \frac{2}{20} = \frac{15}{20}$$

Your answer can be simplified (or reduced) because 5 goes into both 15 and 20. Therefore, you could simplify your answer by saying:

$$\frac{8}{20} + \frac{5}{20} + \frac{2}{20} = \frac{15}{20} = \frac{3}{5}$$

Your answer is three-fifths.

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Adding Fractions Questions

Solve the following (Use the space below the question to work out your answer):

1. $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{4}{9} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

2. $\frac{5}{6} + \frac{5}{12} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

3. $\frac{7}{8} + \frac{1}{4} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

4. $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{10} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

5. $\frac{5}{16} + \frac{1}{2} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

6. $\frac{3}{7} + \frac{11}{21} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

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Adding Fractions Answers

Solve the following (Use the space below the question to work out your answer):

1. $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{4}{9} = 7/9$

2. $\frac{5}{6} + \frac{5}{12} = 15/12$ or $1 \frac{1}{4}$

3. $\frac{7}{8} + \frac{1}{4} = 9/8$ or $1 \frac{1}{8}$

4. $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{10} = 1/2$

5. $\frac{5}{16} + \frac{1}{2} = 13/16$

6. $\frac{3}{7} + \frac{11}{21} = 20/21$