



Adding and Subtracting Fractions with Unlike Denominators

Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade: Grade 5

Part A: Fix the Sentence

Each sentence has an error. Rewrite it correctly on the line.

1. Fix the sentence: To add $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4}$, you add the numerators and the denominators to get $\frac{2}{7}$.

Rewrite: _____

2. Fix the sentence: The sum of $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{3}$ is $\frac{3}{15}$ because $2 + 1 = 3$ and the LCD is 15.

Rewrite: _____

3. Fix the sentence: When you add $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{6}$, the answer is $\frac{4}{6}$ which simplifies to $\frac{2}{4}$.

Rewrite: _____

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the missing word or number on each line.

1. The least common denominator of $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{6}$ is _____.

2. $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} = \frac{5}{15} + \frac{3}{15} =$ _____.

3. To add $\frac{3}{8} + \frac{1}{4}$, rewrite $\frac{1}{4}$ as $\frac{\quad}{8}$.

4. $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{10} = \frac{4}{10} + \frac{1}{10} =$ _____ in simplest form.

Part C: Short Answer

Answer each question in one or two complete sentences.

1. Explain why you need a common denominator before adding fractions.

2. What is $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{2}{3}$? Show your final answer in simplest form.

Answer Key · Adding and Subtracting Fractions with Unlike Denominators · Grade: Grade 5

Part A: Fix the Sentence

Each sentence has an error. Rewrite it correctly on the line.

1. Fix the sentence: To add $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4}$, you add the numerators and the denominators to get $\frac{2}{7}$.

Rewrite: To add $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4}$, you find a common denominator of 12 and get $\frac{4}{12} + \frac{3}{12} = \frac{7}{12}$.

2. Fix the sentence: The sum of $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{3}$ is $\frac{3}{15}$ because $2 + 1 = 3$ and the LCD is 15.

Rewrite: The sum of $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{3}$ is $\frac{11}{15}$ because $\frac{6}{15} + \frac{5}{15} = \frac{11}{15}$.

3. Fix the sentence: When you add $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{6}$, the answer is $\frac{4}{6}$ which simplifies to $\frac{2}{4}$.

Rewrite: When you add $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{6}$, the answer is $\frac{4}{6}$ which simplifies to $\frac{2}{3}$.

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the missing word or number on each line.

1. The least common denominator of $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{6}$ is 12.

2. $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} = \frac{5}{15} + \frac{3}{15} = \frac{8}{15}$.

3. To add $\frac{3}{8} + \frac{1}{4}$, rewrite $\frac{1}{4}$ as $\frac{2}{8}$.

4. $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{10} = \frac{4}{10} + \frac{1}{10} = \frac{1}{2}$ in simplest form.

Part C: Short Answer

Answer each question in one or two complete sentences.

1. Explain why you need a common denominator before adding fractions.

Fractions must have the same denominator so the parts are equal sizes and can be combined.

2. What is $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{2}{3}$? Show your final answer in simplest form.

The answer is $\frac{11}{12}$ because $\frac{3}{12} + \frac{8}{12} = \frac{11}{12}$.
