



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 subtract $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{3}$, the LCD is 8 so the answer is $\frac{6}{8} - \frac{2}{8} = \frac{4}{8}$.*

Rewrite: _____

2. Fix the sentence: *$\frac{5}{6} - \frac{1}{2}$ equals $\frac{4}{4}$ because you subtract both the numerators and denominators.*

Rewrite: _____

3. Fix the sentence: *The difference of $\frac{7}{8} - \frac{1}{4}$ is $\frac{5}{8}$ because you subtract 1 from 7 and keep the 8.*

Rewrite: _____

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the missing word or number on each line.

- The LCD of $\frac{5}{6}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ is _____.
- $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{6} = \frac{9}{12} - \frac{2}{12} =$ _____.
- To subtract $\frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{5}$, rewrite $\frac{2}{3}$ as $\frac{\quad}{15}$.
- $\frac{7}{10} - \frac{1}{5} = \frac{7}{10} - \frac{2}{10} =$ _____ in simplest form.

Part C: Short Answer

Answer each question in one or two complete sentences.

1. What happens if you forget to find the LCD before subtracting fractions?

2. What is $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{1}{9}$? 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 subtract $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{3}$, the LCD is 8 so the answer is $\frac{6}{8} - \frac{2}{8} = \frac{4}{8}$.

Rewrite: **To subtract $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{3}$, the LCD is 12 so the answer is $\frac{9}{12} - \frac{4}{12} = \frac{5}{12}$.**

2. Fix the sentence: $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{1}{2}$ equals $\frac{4}{4}$ because you subtract both the numerators and denominators.

Rewrite: **$\frac{5}{6} - \frac{1}{2}$ equals $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{3}{6} = \frac{2}{6}$, which simplifies to $\frac{1}{3}$.**

3. Fix the sentence: The difference of $\frac{7}{8} - \frac{1}{4}$ is $\frac{5}{8}$ because you subtract 1 from 7 and keep the 8.

Rewrite: **The difference of $\frac{7}{8} - \frac{1}{4}$ is $\frac{7}{8} - \frac{2}{8} = \frac{5}{8}$ after converting $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{2}{8}$.**

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the missing word or number on each line.

1. The LCD of $\frac{5}{6}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ is **12**.

2. $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{6} = \frac{9}{12} - \frac{2}{12} = \frac{7}{12}$.

3. To subtract $\frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{5}$, rewrite $\frac{2}{3}$ as $\frac{10}{15}$.

4. $\frac{7}{10} - \frac{1}{5} = \frac{7}{10} - \frac{2}{10} = \frac{1}{2}$ in simplest form.

Part C: Short Answer

Answer each question in one or two complete sentences.

1. What happens if you forget to find the LCD before subtracting fractions?

You get a wrong answer because you are subtracting parts of different sizes.

2. What is $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{1}{9}$? Show your final answer in simplest form.

The answer is $\frac{13}{18}$ because $\frac{15}{18} - \frac{2}{18} = \frac{13}{18}$.
