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 $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{4}$, the LCD is 10 so the answer is $\frac{4}{10} + \frac{2}{10} = \frac{6}{10}$.*

   Rewrite: _____

2. Fix the sentence:

$\frac{3}{8} - \frac{1}{6}$ equals $\frac{2}{2}$, which is 1, because you subtract both the top and bottom numbers.

   Rewrite: _____

3. Fix the sentence: *$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{10} = \frac{4}{10} + \frac{3}{10} = \frac{7}{10}$, but $\frac{7}{10}$ simplifies to $\frac{7}{5}$.*

   Rewrite: _____

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the missing word or number on each line.

1. The least common denominator of $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$ is _____.

2. $\frac{2}{7} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{4}{14} + \frac{7}{14} =$ _____.

3. To subtract $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{1}{9}$, rewrite $\frac{5}{6}$ as $\frac{\_\_\_\_}{18}$.

4. $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{2}{8} = \frac{6}{8} - \frac{2}{8} =$ _____ in simplest form.

Part C: Short Answer

Answer each question in one or two complete sentences.

1. What is $\frac{3}{5} + \frac{1}{4}$? Show each step and give your answer in simplest form.

2. Why is the least common denominator usually better to use than any common denominator?

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 $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{4}$, the LCD is 10 so the answer is $\frac{4}{10} + \frac{2}{10} = \frac{6}{10}$.*

   Rewrite: To add $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{4}$, the LCD is 20 so the answer is $\frac{8}{20} + \frac{5}{20} = \frac{13}{20}$.

2. Fix the sentence:

$\frac{3}{8} - \frac{1}{6}$ equals $\frac{2}{2}$, which is 1, because you subtract both the top and bottom numbers.

   Rewrite: $\frac{3}{8} - \frac{1}{6} = \frac{9}{24} - \frac{4}{24} = \frac{5}{24}$ after finding the LCD of 24.

3. Fix the sentence: *$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{10} = \frac{4}{10} + \frac{3}{10} = \frac{7}{10}$, but $\frac{7}{10}$ simplifies to $\frac{7}{5}$.*

   Rewrite: $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{10} = \frac{5}{10} + \frac{3}{10} = \frac{8}{10}$, which simplifies to $\frac{4}{5}$.

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the missing word or number on each line.

1. The least common denominator of $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$ is **24** .

2. $\frac{2}{7} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{4}{14} + \frac{7}{14} =$ **11/14** .

3. To subtract $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{1}{9}$, rewrite $\frac{5}{6}$ as $\frac{\textbf{15}}{18}$.

4. $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{2}{8} = \frac{6}{8} - \frac{2}{8} =$ **1/2** in simplest form.

Part C: Short Answer

Answer each question in one or two complete sentences.

1. What is $\frac{3}{5} + \frac{1}{4}$? Show each step and give your answer in simplest form.

   The LCD is 20. Rewrite as $\frac{12}{20} + \frac{5}{20} = \frac{17}{20}$. The answer is $\frac{17}{20}$.

2. Why is the least common denominator usually better to use than any common denominator?